United Nations E/C.19/2007/3/Add.5

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
27 February 2007

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Sixth session
New York, 14-25 May 2007
Items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda*

Special theme: "Territories, lands and natural resources"

Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

I. World Food Programme

II. International Organization for Migration

III. United Nations Institute for Training and Research

IV. Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

* E/C.19/2007/1.

07-25185 (E) 200307

Summary

The present document consists of information provided by the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The first section contains information provided by WFP on food security and indigenous peoples to the Permanent Forum.

The second section contains the response of IOM to the recommendations identified by the Permanent Forum at its fifth session and discusses activities undertaken or being planned by IOM that are of specific relevance to the Permanent Forum.

At the global level, IOM is undertaking research on the nexus between indigenous peoples and migration. At the field level, IOM is engaged with indigenous peoples, Governments and various partner organizations in developing and implementing culturally appropriate projects that respond to indigenous peoples' particular needs.

The third section contains the report of UNITAR on its Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy. The UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives was developed to provide advanced training in conflict analysis and negotiation to representatives of indigenous peoples, based on the requests of indigenous peoples' representatives from around the world at consultations in Geneva and on the recommendations of United Nations Special Rapporteurs.

The final section contains information provided by the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat on the Department's work in the area of conflict prevention in the Americas.

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I. Information from the World Food Programme

1. Even though the World Food Programme (WFP) is not mentioned in the recommendations identified by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in its report on its fifth session,[1] WFP fully understands the importance of indigenous peoples' issues. Although WFP does not have specific programmes for indigenous people unless they are food-insecure, as the Programme's assistance is based on food insecurity and not strictly on the social status of an individual, some WFP programmes have included indigenous people based on their food security status.

II. Information from the International Organization for Migration

A. Response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the International Organization for Migration

Recommendation 50

2. Through its Counter-Trafficking Division, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has for the past decade worked with Governments and communities to combat human trafficking. IOM counter-trafficking activities include more than 150 projects in some 70 countries of origin, transit and destination, providing direct assistance to more than 10,000 persons. These activities are developed and implemented within a framework centred on concern for the well-being of the victim.

3. IOM also participates in the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT). The Cooperation Group was formed in September 2006 in Tokyo as an open-ended working group comprising several agencies involved in counter-trafficking activities in order to enhance the impact of technical assistance activities and coordination. The Cooperation Group undertakes these activities to facilitate a holistic approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including protection of and support for victims of trafficking.

4. The IOM regional office for North America and the Caribbean located in Washington, D.C., in partnership with the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States, the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the United States Department of State, and the Ministry of Justice of the Netherlands, researched and published an *Exploratory Assessment of Trafficking in Persons in the Caribbean*[2] in June 2005. The study highlighted the fact that the indigenous Amerindian peoples of Guyana were particularly vulnerable to trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation, owing mainly to poverty and lack of employment opportunities in their communities of origin.

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 23* (E/2006/43), chap. I, sect. B.

[2] Available from http://www.oas.org/atip/Caribbean%20Research%202005.pdf (accessed 2 March 2007).

Recommendation 17

5. IOM notes the Permanent Forum's endorsement of the recommendations from the joint report of IOM and the Permanent Forum secretariat on the Expert Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Migration: Challenges and Opportunities held in Geneva on 6 and 7 April 2006 (E/C.19/2006/CRP.5). In this regard, in 2006 IOM joined the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and will further consider the recommendation of the workshop that a task force be created within the Support Group to specifically address migration issues of indigenous peoples. As noted in the recommendation, such a task force could ensure the participation of indigenous leaders and experts engaged with migration topics and promote capacity-building projects dealing with the migration of indigenous peoples.

6. Some of the experts' recommendations included the need to inject a much-needed perspective of indigenous peoples at the 2006 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, which indeed did include the participation of a representative of the Permanent Forum. In addition, issues affecting indigenous peoples were addressed during the High-level Dialogue's informal interactive hearings, where non-governmental organizations, civil society and private sector actors included indigenous leaders. A particular case was the participation of a representative of the Cultural Conservation Act from Rwanda, who had also been a participant at the IOM/Permanent Forum secretariat workshop.

7. The Expert Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Migration highlighted the impact of migration on indigenous communities, noting that such impact could be collective rather than individual and could have stronger consequences for indigenous peoples' cultures than for those of any other group. The positive potential of indigenous migration was also discussed. In this regard, it was noted that the community organizations of many indigenous peoples might help enhance the impact of remittances and might also aid in the transfer of skills and their circulation throughout the entire community. When they do migrate out of their communities, indigenous peoples can promote their indigenous social and cultural capital in their destination countries or communities, at the same time furthering attention to, and knowledge of and interest in, indigenous peoples. For indigenous peoples, particularly in a migration context, there is a need for the implementation of international law and for indigenous peoples themselves to participate and have a voice in matters that may lead to their own migration or the migration of others to their lands.

Recommendation 161

8. IOM will participate in the Expert Group Meeting on Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration, to be held from 27 to 29 March 2007 in Santiago, and to be organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in cooperation with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum. IOM will provide an overview of the impact of migration on indigenous peoples, while recognizing the cultural particularities of their migration. IOM expert representatives at this workshop will include Ms. Gabriela Rodriguez, Chief of Mission of IOM-Chile and former Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the human rights of migrants, and Mr. Eugenio Ambrosi, IOM regional representative based in Buenos Aires. IOM input will also provide the perspective of an international

organization working with specific indigenous communities in Latin America. As a result of the participation of indigenous experts in the Expert Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Migration, IOM was able to recommend indigenous experts representing the Pacific and Latin America regions.

B. Response to recommendations addressed to one or more agencies or to the United Nations system in general under one or more items

9. In response to the Permanent Forum's recommendations to the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues and to international organizations, IOM stands ready to work in cooperation with other members of the Support Group to maximize collaboration, avoid duplication and advance joint efforts to strengthen work on data collection and identification of indicators relevant to indigenous peoples. Additionally, IOM supports efforts to integrate indigenous issues into development frameworks and supports partnerships built to ensure the protection of and respect for indigenous peoples' rights and the realization of their visions of development with respect for culture and identity. IOM would also ensure that any programmes on HIV/AIDS would be culturally appropriate and include the full and effective participation, and free, prior and informed consent, of indigenous peoples.

C. Obstacles to implementation of recommendations or other policies relevant to indigenous peoples

10. IOM is a project-based organization. Lack of core resources to address issues relating to indigenous peoples and migration can be overcome only by donor support through project funding.

D. Other significant information on recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues within the International Organization for Migration

11. Arising out of the joint IOM/Permanent Forum secretariat Expert Workshop on Indigenous Peoples and Migration (April 2006) were a number of recommendations made by experts with respect to indigenous peoples' lands. The experts recommended that indigenous peoples should, in order to avoid migration or displacement, have input on policies and projects that might affect their lands. Also, the experts recommended that States be aware of development plans that might lead to the forcible displacement of indigenous communities via encroachment by extractive industries on indigenous lands.

12. In 2007, IOM will undertake research on the nexus between indigenous peoples and migration with a special regional focus on Latin America. The research will highlight the many challenges faced by indigenous peoples when forced to migrate from their territories and will also consider the opportunities that informed migration may bring to indigenous migrants and their communities. This paper, which will be made available during the sixth session of the Permanent Forum in May 2007, is intended for publication later in the year.

13. The integration of indigenous migrants and communities in host societies — abroad or within national borders — is another subject that presents unique considerations and IOM is also working to mainstream these considerations into its activities at headquarters. For example, in July 2006, at the Seminar on Migrants and Host Societies: Partnership for Success held by IOM at headquarters within the framework of its International Dialogue on Migration, the President of the Commission of the Indigenous Community of the Guatemalan Congress, a representative of the Mayan people, focused on the special challenges faced by indigenous peoples in respect of their integration. IOM has recently joined the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues to engage with other agencies and organizations on addressing the individual and collective challenges of indigenous peoples and to contribute IOM expertise on the topic of international migration.

14. The mandate of IOM is to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, be they displaced persons or other uprooted people. IOM is highly decentralized and service-oriented. As part of this field-driven approach, IOM field missions have developed and implemented various projects relevant to indigenous peoples and undertake efforts to ensure that all projects are culturally appropriate and culturally sensitive. To illustrate, a sampling of IOM projects at the field level that involve indigenous peoples are described below.

Chile

15. Following an agreement with the local Corporation for Indigenous Development, over the last three years IOM-Santiago has been executing programmes encompassing promotion of and information on indigenous rights, subsidies to address the needs and the legal defence of indigenous communities, and the implementation of a public registry of indigenous lands. Recently, the Santiago Mission has received requests from both the Interior Ministry of Chile and the Corporation for Indigenous Development for studies on flows of indigenous groups throughout that country.

Costa Rica

16. In Costa Rica, IOM is providing support to a programme managed by the National University in Costa Rica aimed at improving the health of the estimated 12,000 Ngobe men, women and children who travel from Panama to Costa Rica every August to start work on the coffee harvests in southern Costa Rica. The programme provides literacy classes for the indigenous Ngobe tribe, which are funded by the United States Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and include a handbook in Ngobe. The classes also include information on health and human rights. The classes will end in late February or early March, when the Ngobe head back to Panama. Ngobe representatives lauded the literacy effort but said much more must be done. A recently signed agreement with the National University will allow for future cooperation between IOM-San José and the university. Recently, one literacy project entitled "Building Bridges" was officially inaugurated with the attendance of two coffee cooperatives and members of the migrant population.

17. Other IOM efforts on behalf of the Ngobe indigenous mobile population are focused on project development. IOM-Costa Rica and the Costa Rica Social Security Fund are developing projects aimed at contributing to improved health among seasonal migrant workers of the Ngobe tribe. This project will pilot a health promotion model designed to reach this highly mobile population at strategic points along the migration route, with a view to training health promoters. By empowering members of the target population through provision of knowledge and resources, this project will build the health capacity of the Ngobe migrants, increasing access to health information and services. IOM-Costa Rica is working with members of the Ngobe tribe for their inputs so as to ensure that the health promotion model is culturally appropriate, and will work with key farm owners to promote their sensitization.

Ecuador

18. IOM-Ecuador has been working with a number of different indigenous communities along Ecuador's northern border with Colombia as part of its Northern Border Development Programme and Emergency Assistance to Displaced Colombians Programme. These communities include the Kichwa, Epera, Cayapa, Chachis, Otavalo and Awa ethnic groups. IOM-Ecuador provides training to local indigenous community members on a variety of health issues including acute respiratory infection, acute diarrhoea disease, first aid and HIV/AIDS. In 2005, IOM-Ecuador assisted indigenous communities in the area of land titling and legalization of their lands. This project was carried out in 18 indigenous communities covering several ethnic groups in the province of Sucumbios.

19. Ongoing activities involve the construction of social and productive infrastructure projects. Social infrastructure includes the construction of potable water and sewerage systems which reached upward of 4,500 indigenous peoples of the Cayapa, Chachi and Awa communities in Esmeraldas, Sucumbios, Napo and Imbabura provinces. Productive infrastructure projects involve mainly the construction of pedestrian or vehicular bridges and also the paving of roads so that communities are able to bring their goods to local markets more easily. Transportation infrastructure projects reach 3,700 indigenous peoples of the Epera, Chachi and Awa communities in Esmeraldas, Orellana and Napo provinces. After a potable water or sewerage system has been constructed in a community, the local leaders are provided with ongoing training on a variety of topics that relate to the operation, maintenance and commercialization of the system. Examples of such topics include technical maintenance of the equipment, proper use of chemicals for disinfecting the water (which make it potable), accounting practices, how to collect overdue bills from users, organizational development and team-building, etc.

20. The United Nations country teams of Colombia and Ecuador have recently formed a bilateral working group to discuss border issues involving the two countries. IOM-Ecuador and IOM-Colombia are integrated into both the United Nations country teams and are members of the working group on indigenous peoples.

Colombia

21. IOM-Colombia recognizes a need to include specific cultural characteristics of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities in education, health and productive

services. Access to land, education, employment and basic services go hand in hand with their social and cultural needs. These needs include respect for cultural identity (such as indigenous health practices and adaptation of the school curricula to cultural specificities) and the possibility of actively participating in local and national decision-making, and encompass concerns about discrimination as an obstacle in terms of access and fulfilment of their basic needs. IOM-Colombia currently has three programmes that involve indigenous peoples: (a) Assistance Programme for Displaced People and Vulnerable Groups, (b) Strengthening Peace Programme in Colombia and (c) Support Programme for Ex-Combatant Children.

22. As part of the Assistance Programme for Displaced People and Vulnerable Groups, the sectors of land, health and education are being focused on. IOM-Colombia is participating in the construction of "Guidelines for prevention and integral assistance for displaced and under-risk indigenous groups with a differential approach" which will eventually be presented to the National Council for Integral Assistance to Internally Displaced Populations for application in territorial areas. With respect to protection of land and patrimonial assets of displaced populations in Colombia, the main focus of IOM-Colombia since 2002 has been on protecting land assets of at-risk families through a pilot programme co-financed with the World Bank, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Acción Social, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office of the Governor of Norte de Santander. Primary protective measures have included a national registry of abandoned lands; a freeze on land sales in zones of high displacement; and an exchange programme that allows internally displaced persons access to land in lower-risk areas. Under this project, IOM-Colombia has also helped update and computerize registration of titled landholdings at the local level, allowing internally displaced persons and at-risk populations to participate in the 2007/01 land programme and providing them with the means to more easily reclaim their lands in the event of return as well as with a legal basis for contesting illegal seizures. The programme also provides the basis for land swaps.

23. IOM-Colombia has also promoted land titling in at-risk urban and rural zones. This has had two important impacts. First, once land is registered and titled, it will be more difficult for illegal actors to try to displace the population. Second, titling allows beneficiaries access to mortgage credits, both while they are on their land and following displacement. IOM-Colombia is extending land titling throughout at-risk zones within selected municipalities, deterring additional displacement. IOM-Colombia is also supporting the updating of municipal tax registries. These registries function as official records of landownership (reducing opportunities for illegal acquisition) and also increase municipal funding for social services, diminishing social stresses caused by arrivals of internally displaced persons. Finally, IOM-Colombia has supported the rehabilitation of unused or underutilized lands for income-generation for internally displaced persons and the rehabilitation of demonstration plots at agricultural rural schools and colleges. On the basis of the above experience and the legal remedies available, IOM-Colombia has developed and is implementing with multiple partners, including a representative from the National Organization of Indigenous Groups in Colombia, an integrated strategy for addressing the land access issue in terms of both protection and return, and relocation sub-projects in designated municipalities. Principal elements of the scheme include asset protection and strengthening of other legal remedies.

24. The Assistance Programme has stepped up the pace of protection activity. It is strengthening the institutional network at national and local levels, and internally displaced person capacity at individual and collective levels. It has also helped to create alternative solutions for specific constraints (such as debt relief) and is developing more effective procedures for protection of particularly vulnerable groups including indigenous and Afro-Colombian populations.

25. In the Dagua municipality of Valle de Cauca, IOM-Colombia is involved in meetings being held between the Municipal Unit for Agricultural Technical Assistance (Unidad Municipal de Asistencia Técnica Agropecuaria) and indigenous authorities of the YU'Yich Kwe, Cañon del Río Pepitas and Nuevo Despertar with a view to creating awareness of land protection issues and agreement on the application of protection measures in their territories. In the department of Norte de Santander, a differentiated strategy has been developed to collect information on the exercise of land rights for the Motilón Barí and Catalaura reservations. Workshops have also been held to create awareness on protection measures and their scope within the community and to agree on the strategies for data collection with the Association of Bari (ASCBARI Cabildos). In the Chocó department, IOM-Colombia has met with various indigenous representatives. Among them were the Regional Indigenous Organization (OREWA), indigenous cabildos particularly the Cabildo Mayor del Alto de San Jusna-Camaiscon, and the board of the Community Council of the Andagueda indigenous reservation. In meetings with the Andagueda people, some key factors of vulnerability were established, namely, the transformation of the appropriation, use and handling of territories, the legal situation and territorial legislation. The Tadó and Bagadó municipalities of the Chocó department have been selected for continued support in respect of the identification and characterization of territorial needs and judicial security.

26. IOM-Colombia is implementing specialized health projects, training and supporting traditional healers, and strengthening existing indigenous health networks. A project on sexual and reproductive health is being implemented in the municipalities of Mocoa, Villagarzón and Puerto Asís in Putumayo, which includes the input of the indigenous and Afro-Colombia populations, so as to ensure culturally appropriate methodologies.

27. An education project in Putumayo for Afro-Colombian and indigenous groups is expected to expand assistance coverage, improve the supply of education services, prevent displacements and consolidate institutional presence with the involvement of community organizations, Acción Social, and the local education department. Currently, five teaching institutions for indigenous groups and six for Afro-Colombians have been identified.

28. For 2007, IOM-Colombia is planning numerous activities, including (a) providing advice and technical assistance to Acción Social in differentiating between the various ethnic and indigenous groups in the Information System on the Displaced Population (Sistema Información de la Población Desplazada), (b) coordinating and providing advice to the Colombian Institute for Rural Development (Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural (INCODER)) and entities of the Public Ministry with respect to the inclusion of the module of affected ethnic territories in the Unified Property Registry, (c) providing training on land protection to minority ethnic groups and (d) continuing with the land protection process in Norte de Santander, Chocó and Valle de Cauca.

29. The IOM-Colombia Strengthening Peace Programme has constructed an Integral Centre for Coexistence and Peace aimed at creating a space within which to integrate indigenous traditional medical practices with Western medicine and also establishing a space for cultural exchange, thus constituting an innovative strategy for promoting inter-ethnic coexistence. The Centre also established a school for young boys and girls known as Escuela de Eseñanza Propia, aimed at the recuperation and consolidation of the customs and traditions of three indigenous communities of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Kogui, Wiwa and Yukpa). The school was created for children who, owing to conflict, have had to abandon their places of origin, thereby losing the opportunity to get to know their history, customs and sacred areas. The school is using 19 training modules for mother tongue, traditional music, traditional fabrics, and customs. Likewise, the contents of the modules have been discussed with the *Mamos* (elders) and experts on the different subjects to be developed in the school, for the purpose of receiving feedback. Bilingual teachers have also been hired to teach the children.

30. The IOM-Colombia programme on Prevention of Accidents and Incidents with Anti-Personnel Mines is aimed at designing, constructing and equipping two *kankuruas* (indigenous traditional houses) where trainings and information sessions will be carried out on awareness of anti-personnel mines and how they affect the indigenous community located in the Centro Yeura. The construction of the *kankuruas* is being coordinated with indigenous leaders aiming at preserving their customs and traditions.

31. IOM-Colombia also provides a Support Programme for Ex-Combatant Children. One project on economic development opportunities and food security aims to reduce the vulnerability of Arhuaco indigenous youth in Pueblo Bello (Cesar). In Mitú, Vaupes, a survey is being undertaken among indigenous boys, girls and youth on the impact of armed conflict, with the aim of identifying prevention strategies against recruitment. Potential future activities based on funding include a project aimed at generating opportunities for social inclusion and mitigation of threats for indigenous children and youth in the Wacoyo reservation. A second project will involve the Los Pastos indigenous community in initiatives aimed at the prevention of recruitment of boys, girls and youth into illegal armed groups and restoration of the rights of ex-combatant children.

32. The programmes discussed above work specifically with indigenous communities. Though many IOM-Colombia projects target displaced communities at large, in many instances indigenous communities are also part of this beneficiary group and measures are taken to ensure cultural sensitivity. For example, a project on creating and strengthening a youth movement in Montes de Maria as a strategy to reduce the risk of recruitment into illegal armed groups also supports the participation of indigenous youth living in San Antonio de Palmito. Other programmes include strengthening of food security for vulnerable, returnee and displaced groups in Putumayo and Valle de Cauca, which include indigenous communities.

33. The continuing work of IOM-Colombia with indigenous peoples is based on specific guidelines on ethnic groups, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants to ensure that all IOM projects include the rights of indigenous peoples, taking into account their own culture, politics and policies. A cornerstone of these guidelines is the need for the systemic participation of indigenous peoples in decisions that affect

them. These guidelines represent a minimum standard, subject to further evaluation, that ensures that IOM projects are culturally and linguistically appropriate. IOM-Colombia also works to raise awareness nationally of the cultural heritage and benefits to society contributed by indigenous people and Afro-Colombian communities.

34. The focal point for ethnic groups and indigenous issues for IOM-Colombia is also participating in meetings and events involving ethnic groups in Colombia. This focal point has had working sessions with other organizations and donors aimed at obtaining information on the various activities being implemented with ethnic groups. The focal point is a member of the working group for Afro-Colombian affairs of the United States Agency for International Development. The objective this year is to be able to set up an inter-agency working group for indigenous affairs with other agencies/organizations. Along the same lines, political dialogue with different government entities and representatives dealing with ethnic affairs will be strengthened.

Information regarding the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

35. The projects highlighted above incorporate a number of IOM activities that are relevant to the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (A/60/270, sect. II) in the areas of culture, education, health, human rights, environment, and social and economic development.

III. Information from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

A. Recommendation identified by the Permanent Forum at its fifth session concerning the United Nations Institute for Training and Research

36. The Permanent Forum an its fifth session (see E/2006/43, chap. I, sect. B, para. 41) recommended that the UNITAR training programme to enhance the conflict prevention and peacebuilding capacities of indigenous peoples' representatives be supported henceforth through the regular budget of the United Nations. As UNITAR to date has received no funding from the regular budget of the United Nations and must raise all of the funding for its programmes and staff from Governments and foundations, this recommendation aimed at ensuring the continuation of this much-requested capacity-building programme is most welcome. UNITAR looks forward to providing any additional réquired information related to the realization of this recommendation.

37. The main objectives of the UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives are: to strengthen participants' capacities to analyse conflict; to identify the needs, fears, concerns and aspirations of all parties to a conflict; and, based upon this and while being engaged in dialogue with partners, to formulate mutually beneficial options to address problems. The focus is on the process of analysing and dealing with conflict in a constructive manner. With strengthened

tools of conflict analysis, negotiation and relationship-building, indigenous representatives are further equipped to engage in dialogue on issues, with a view to addressing the priorities of their communities and to improving the lives of their peoples. The training aims to strengthen indigenous representatives' abilities to negotiate so as to improve the situation of their peoples in all of the areas under the mandate of the Permanent Forum: health, education, culture, environment, economic and social development, and human rights.

38. Participants examine rights-based and interest-based negotiation models and engage in negotiation simulations reflecting issues faced by their communities. Case studies and presentations are conducted on land and resource issues, encompassing inclusive models for participation and consultation, and constructive dialogue processes, as well as in other areas. Senior indigenous experts, including members of the Permanent Forum, as well as other specialists, and the Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, and on indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources, as well as representatives of regional organizations, are invited to serve as resource persons for the training programme.

39. For both the international and regional training programmes, UNITAR works actively with Permanent Forum members and other indigenous experts in the design of its training programmes for indigenous peoples and invites members to serve as resource persons able to address participants on the mandate and activities of the Forum, advise on the best ways to interact with the Forum and consult with participants on their respective areas of concern under the mandate of the Forum. Eight Forum members, including the Chairperson, have served as resource persons for UNITAR training programmes in the Americas, in the Asia-Pacific region, in Africa, and in the international programme. Reports of the Forum sessions are provided to each training participant in his or her handbook of reference materials. UNITAR looks forward to continued collaboration with the Forum and other indigenous experts on the capacity-building of indigenous representatives.

40. A participant handbook is prepared for each training programme which includes papers by indigenous experts, information on international and regional human rights mechanisms, chapters from the United Nations Guide for Indigenous Peoples, and other relevant documents. Reports of the Permanent Forum, reports of the Special Rapporteurs focusing on indigenous issues, as well as information on the Millennium Development Goals, are also provided in his or her handbook to each participant as reference materials for the training.

41. Each training programme concludes with a "Dialogue on a common vision for peace", providing participants with the opportunity to highlight key lessons from the training and their mutual exchange, and to articulate next steps towards building a common vision for peace and development. Feedback from participants from each region indicates that they are applying these strategies and enhanced skills in their communities and in dialogue with Governments and other partners at the local level and in international forums.

42. The international training programme is conducted annually at the time of the meetings of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations held at the United Nations Office at Geneva (2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006). A regional training programme is conducted in a different part of the world each year. Regional training programmes have been held to date in Mexico for indigenous peoples of the

Americas (2001), in Thailand for indigenous representatives of the Asia-Pacific region (2003), in the United Republic of Tanzania for English-speaking indigenous peoples' representatives of Africa (2004), and in Morocco (2006) for French-speaking indigenous representatives of the Great Lakes region and Central, Northern and West Africa. The 2007 regional training programme is planned for indigenous peoples' representatives of the Pacific.

43. UNITAR has been involved in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues since its formation and has participated in each session of the Permanent Forum.

44. The 2006 regional and international training programmes were funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, and the Agency for Development and Cooperation of Switzerland. UNITAR is grateful for this support which made these much-requested programmes possible.

B. The Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples: collaboration with the African Union and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

45. At each of the two regional training programmes organized in Africa, in the United Republic of Tanzania for anglophone representatives, and in Morocco for francophone representatives, UNITAR invited Commissioners from the African Union African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the Chair and expert members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities to engage in dialogue with indigenous representatives from Africa on the mandate and activities of the Commission and the Working Group, as well as to discuss how to best interact with these regional mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa. The Working Group's landmark report and country mission reports have been provided to all African participants and shared with resource persons from around the world.

Human rights

46. At each UNITAR training programme, a senior indigenous lawyer and professor conducts several sessions on United Nations and regional mechanisms to promote dialogue and action on human rights and indigenous issues. In addition, chapters of the guide developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on indigenous peoples and human rights are provided to each participant as part of his or her handbook of readings and reference material.

47. At a number of training sessions, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people or his staff member addressed participants on his mandate and activities as well as on the process for raising concerns and rights violations. The Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources also presented a session on her mandate and activities to the international training programme. The Secretary of

the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations served as a resource person for both regional training sessions in Africa and for the international training, highlighting opportunities for creating spaces for dialogue in the United Nations system and outlining a rights-based approach to development. A representative from the Ministry of Justice of the Congo was invited to share the draft national law on the protection of indigenous peoples' rights at the 2006 Africa regional training. As part of the elaboration of this law, they have carried out an intensive consultation with indigenous representatives and experts as well as with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

48. Staff members of regional organizations are also invited to speak on mandates, mechanisms and opportunities for engaging in the promotion and protection of indigenous rights at the regional level. Regional representatives from the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), two Commissioners from the African Union African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights including the Chair of the Working Group, as well as two indigenous expert members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities, have served as resource persons for the training programme. Indigenous resource persons serving in government have addressed training participants on successes and challenges in the area of governance.

49. The training on negotiation examines traditional negotiation, and the rights-based approach to negotiation, and then introduces an interest-based model with which to analyse the concerns of the parties and engage in dialogue designed to address conflicts in a mutually beneficial manner.

Indigenous women

50. UNITAR actively seeks referrals of indigenous women for each training programme both as resource persons and as participants. That women compose 40 per cent of training participants furthers the aim of building on their capacity to analyse sources of conflict, identify the interests and concerns of the various parties involved and affected, and engage in dialogue and negotiation to improve the condition of life for their communities in all sectors. The Participants' Forum session of the training is normally chaired by an indigenous woman and invites representatives working in different sectors, and reflecting a gender and regional balance, to provide a presentation on initiatives that they are undertaking in the areas of environment, development, education, gender, culture, promotion of human rights, peacebuilding, and dialogue with Governments and the private sector on land and resource issues in order that strategies and remaining challenges may be shared.

51. The UNITAR training programme invites indigenous women involved in peacebuilding initiatives to participate in the training in order to share their experiences and challenges with other representatives, and to further enhance the capacity of indigenous women in conflict analysis, negotiation and peacebuilding.

52. Senior indigenous women are actively sought to serve as resource persons for the training programme for the purpose of sharing their strategies, experiences, challenges and insights on a whole range of issues of concern to indigenous women, and to indigenous men and youth. Indigenous women who have served as resource persons for the UNITAR training programme include the Chairperson of the

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; the former Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, who is now a Permanent Forum member; a Counsellor in the Greenland Home Rule Government; the Minister of Culture and Sports of Guatemala, who serves as a Permanent Forum member; the former Permanent Forum member from the Pacific; a member of Parliament from Burundi; the Vice-Chancellor of a University of an Autonomous Region in Nicaragua; the chairperson of an indigenous alliance in the Philippines; an education officer from the Ministry of Education of Kenya, who is also the women's representative for an indigenous non-governmental organization; and an expert member of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

53. Other women who have served as resource persons for UNITAR training sessions include the Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples' permanent sovereignty over natural resources, the Secretary of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations, and representatives of other United Nations organizations. UNITAR will continue to identify and invite top female resource persons and participants who contribute substantively to the excellence of the programme.

Challenges

54. As UNITAR receives no funds from the regular budget of the United Nations, funds for all programmes and staff salaries must be raised for each training programme through requests to Governments and foundations.

C. Programmes regarding indigenous issues within the Institute

55. UNITAR was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the United Nations for the purpose of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations through appropriate training and research. UNITAR is governed by a Board of Trustees and is headed by an Executive Director. The Institute is supported by voluntary contributions from Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and foundations and other non-governmental sources.

56. The UNITAR Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy was initiated in 1993 to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations efforts in conflict prevention and resolution. Since then, the Programme has expanded to provide a range of research and training involving mid- and senior-level United Nations staff, diplomats, indigenous peoples' representatives, regional organization staff and civil society representatives.

57. Indigenous participants in the UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding engage in identifying sources of conflict, and examine traditional negotiation, and rights-based negotiation approaches. Participants are then trained in interest-based negotiation and practice this method in a number of simulations. This approach seeks a win-win solution to conflict situations by helping parties become more effective at exploring one another's needs, aspirations, fears and concerns, and working from these to create innovative solutions that can address the interests of all concerned.

58. The international training programme is conducted annually at the time of the meeting of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations held at the United Nations Office at Geneva. This programme is conducted in English. In addition, a regional training programme is organized in a different part of the world each year. The first regional programme was held in Mexico in 2001 for indigenous peoples' representatives from Northern, Central and South America. The programme was conducted in Spanish and English. In 2003, the UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives of the Asia-Pacific was organized in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The programme involved 30 representatives, including 13 women, from the Asia and Pacific regions. The regional training programme for indigenous peoples' representatives of Africa was organized in Arusha in December 2004 for 30 indigenous representatives from across the continent. The 2006 regional training programme was organized for 32 indigenous representatives from the Great Lakes region and Central, Northern and West Africa. The training was conducted in French. The next regional training programme is planned for indigenous representatives of the Pacific.

59. In May 2002, the UNITAR Seminar for Members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was organized in New York at the request of a number of Permanent Forum members. The Seminar was planned to assist their efforts to prepare for and implement the first session of the Permanent Forum at United Nations Headquarters, and to facilitate work on their important mandate.

The Millennium Development Goals and indigenous peoples

60. As the Secretary-General stated in his address to the third session of the Permanent Forum, if the twenty-first century is to be the "Age of prevention", indigenous peoples must be actively involved in decisions that affect them. As marginalization and exclusion from political and economic processes lead to alienation and poverty and constitute some of the root causes of conflict, enhancing capacity and opportunities for the meaningful participation of indigenous women and men in decision-making and political processes offers some concrete mechanisms for the prevention of violent conflict. Inclusive consultative approaches also enhance understanding of the needs, perspectives, experiences and diverse cultures of indigenous peoples and can assist in the formulation of appropriate policies and programmes that best address their needs in a sustainable manner.

61. The UNITAR training programme focuses on strengthening negotiation skills so that indigenous peoples may more effectively negotiate in development and other processes that affect them. Senior indigenous experts, who serve as resource persons for the UNITAR international and regional training programmes, present case studies on conflict and negotiation processes on development and resource issues, as these are key conflictual issues faced by indigenous peoples and States. Special Rapporteurs and a World Bank staff member are also invited to address the group on a range of development issues, policies and programmes relating to land and resources. The Millennium Development Goals and reports thereon, as well as United Nations reports on dialogue processes over natural resources, are provided to each participant as reference materials in his or her handbook for the training.

62. The programme also examines mechanisms and processes that promote participation of diverse groups in order to counter marginalization and exclusion.

Participants then engage in negotiation simulations, focusing on resource issues and inclusive political participation processes, in order to build on their capacity to satisfactorily negotiate on behalf of their organizations and communities and to develop mutually beneficial sustainable options.

D. Special theme of the sixth session: "Territories, lands and natural resources"

63. The UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives focuses on strengthening the conflict analysis and negotiation skills of indigenous peoples' representatives from around the world. As conflict over land and resource issues, and marginalization from political and economic processes are two of the biggest challenges faced by indigenous peoples, the majority of cases and negotiation simulations in the training programme focus on these issues. The training programme reviews both rights-based and problem-solving negotiation processes to strengthen the capacity of indigenous representatives to analyse root causes of conflict and engage in constructive dialogue with Governments, the private sector and other communities so as to resolve conflict in a mutually beneficial and sustainable manner.

64. In order to strengthen the capacity of indigenous representatives to engage in constructive dialogue processes on the issues of lands, territories and resources, the training programme invites Special Rapporteurs and Permanent Forum members to conduct sessions on successful negotiation processes on land and resource issues, and on processes undertaken to promote and protect land and resource rights. Specific land and resource cases are presented by indigenous experts from different regions highlighting precedent-setters and remaining challenges. Initiatives to facilitate dialogue among indigenous representatives, Governments and the private sector are also highlighted. Further, regional organization mechanisms and other dialogue processes are reviewed. Senior indigenous experts and United Nations system and World Bank staff members make presentations on United Nations and international conventions, mechanisms and policies that promote and protect human rights and facilitate dialogue among concerned parties.

65. Extensive documentation including United Nations reports, guidelines and studies are made available to participants to strengthen their knowledge of conventions and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of their rights.

E. Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

66. As noted in General Assembly resolution 59/174 of 20 December 2004, proclaiming the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, commencing on 1 January 2005, indigenous peoples continue to endure a precarious economic and social situation and the persistence of grave violations of their human rights. The UNITAR training programme will continue to focus on building indigenous capacity for the protection and promotion of those human rights and the constructive resolution of conflicts in the development, social, economic, health, human rights, environment and cultural areas.

67. In the Second Decade, indigenous representatives will be engaged in dialogue and negotiation on more issues of concern than were considered in the First Decade. Intellectual property and traditional knowledge and resources, growing environmental pressures, and strategies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals are just some of the areas of keen interest that can benefit from further indigenous participation. These emerging issues and the continued economic and social marginalization that many indigenous peoples face will necessitate constructive approaches to promoting and protecting their rights, and the further development of mechanisms through which to engage indigenous peoples in processes and decisions that affect them.

68. The UNITAR training programme is designed to increase the effectiveness of indigenous representatives in engaging in dialogue on decisions that affect them and contributing to the constructive resolution of problems facing their communities in partnership with other concerned parties.

69. Indigenous experts and former participants are consulted in the design and planning of each UNITAR training programme to ensure that the programme is addressing key concerns and evolving issues faced by indigenous peoples. They advise on what cases should be included from each region, and make recommendations on top resource persons as well as on participants and organizations that could best benefit from and contribute to the programme.

IV. Information from the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

70. As part of its conflict-prevention tasks, the Americas and Europe Division of the Department of Political Affairs, in monitoring the political situation of the countries of the Americas and Europe, closely follows the situations of indigenous peoples. The Division has established, as a standard practice, meetings with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen. Since 2003, the Special Rapporteur has briefed the Division on the findings derived from his visits to Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Mexico. In carrying out political assessments in the region, the Division has also met with a wide array of representatives of indigenous peoples and taken their concerns into consideration in its analysis and recommendations. This has been the case, for example, when the Division was considering the situation of Bolivia, Ecuador and Canada.

71. The Americas and Europe Division of the Department of Political Affairs considers that the choice of "Territories, lands and natural resources" as the special theme of the sixth session of the Permanent Forum is timely and appropriate, as these issues are at the heart of the political debate in several countries of the region.

United Nations E/C.19/2007/3/Add.6

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
1 March 2007

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Sixth session
New York, 14-25 May 2007
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Summary

The present document contains information provided by the following four Divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs: the Division for the Advancement of Women; the Division for Public Administration and Development Management; the Division for Sustainable Development; and the Statistics Division.

The secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which is part of the Division for Social Policy and Development, will provide its report to the Forum in a separate document.

* E/C.19/2007/1.

07-25353 (E) 200307

I. Division for the Advancement of Women

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which is supported by the Division for the Advancement of Women as substantive secretariat, continues to review and address the situation of indigenous women in reporting States parties. During its thirty-fourth (16 January to 3 February 2006), thirty-fifth (15 May to 2 June 2006) and thirty-sixth (7 to 25 August 2006) sessions, the Committee raised the issue of indigenous women in the constructive dialogue and in the concluding comments of those States parties that had indigenous peoples among their population, namely Australia, China, Guatemala, Mexico, the Philippines and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).[1]

2. In the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1), which the Division prepared and presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, the issue of violence against indigenous women is discussed. The International Indigenous Women's Forum, associated with MADRE, an international human rights organization focusing on women's rights, was an active member of the task force set up by the Division as part of the preparation of the study.

3. In October 2006, the Chief of the Women's Rights Section of the Division for the Advancement of Women participated in a panel discussion on violence against indigenous women. The discussion was organized by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, MADRE and the International Indigenous Women's Forum. The report, entitled "Mairin Iwanka Raya, indigenous women stand against violence", was issued as a companion piece to the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women.

4. During the fiftieth session of the Commission of the Status of Women, the panel discussion to commemorate International Women's Day, on 8 March 2006, included Noeli Pocaterra, President of the Permanent Commission of Indigenous Peoples National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Several side events dealing with indigenous women's issues were held during the session, including one event on violence against indigenous women, sponsored jointly by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, MADRE and the International Indigenous Women's Forum.

5. The Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women, Ambassador Carmen Maria Gallardo, addressed the Permanent Forum at its fifth session in May 2006.

6. The Division for the Advancement of Women continues to participate in and contribute to the work of the Task Force on Indigenous Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the Intradepartmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. As part of the intra-departmental task force, the Division prepared a plan for the implementation of the second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, which was included in the plan of action for the Decade of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/61/38).

II. Division for Public Administration and Development Management

International Conference on Engaging Communities

7. The International Conference on Engaging Communities, which was sponsored jointly by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the state government of Queensland and held in Brisbane, Australia from 14 to 17 August 2005, attracted 3,000 participants from 44 countries. The Division collaborated with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in a workshop entitled "Engaging the marginalized — partnership between indigenous people, Governments and civil society". The highlight of the conference was the Brisbane Declaration, which, among other provisions, stipulated the following:

> We, the representatives of countries and communities, including indigenous peoples, international institutions, national, state and local governments, academic institutions, and business and civil society organizations from across the world, ... recognize that inclusive engagement requires that indigenous peoples and the poor and marginalized are adequately resourced to participate meaningfully in the broader community and that they have a stake in the outcome and benefit equitably as a result of being involved.

The Brisbane Declaration was submitted to the Secretary-General by the Prime Minister of Australia for follow-up at the global level.

Project for institutional capacity-building of indigenous local governments in Ecuador

8. The Division for Public Administration and Development Management has been assisting the Division for Social Policy and Development in developing a proposal for a technical cooperation project for institutional capacity-building for local governments, managed by the indigenous peoples of Ecuador. The proposal has been formulated by a team of experts from both Divisions, approved by the Government of Ecuador and submitted for consideration by several donor Governments. The proposed project aims at empowering communities in municipalities with indigenous authorities by means of institutional capacity-building in planning and budgeting. By ensuring the participation and meaningful involvement of indigenous and non-indigenous communities, planning and budgeting can be conducted in an open and inclusive manner.

Contribution to the development of monitoring indicators for the socio-economic development of indigenous people

9. The Division for Public Administration and Development Management provided input during the preparation of monitoring indicators of socio-economic governance of indigenous people.

10. In cooperation with the Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh, the Division participated in an expert team mission in November 2006 that conducted a series of systematic consultations with relevant stakeholders in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. The consultations focused on governance issues pertaining to the indigenous or tribal groups, the

non-implementation of the 10-year-old peace accord and the lack of governmental structures to deal effectively with unresolved land and territorial disputes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. On the basis of the consultations, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs helped develop a confidence-building strategy for the Chittagong Hill Tracts through which UNDP will work with stakeholders. Strategic interventions are envisioned at the following levels:

(a) National level: to assist in developing a high-level consensus on policy issues, such as those elements pertaining to sustainable peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. To that end, the land question, security sector issues, the status of recent settlers and internally displaced people, the revitalization of the Land Commission and a workable arrangement for constituting regional and district councils in the Chittagong Hill Tracts will be examined.

(b) Regional and district levels in the Chittagong Hill Tracts: to enhance the capacities of public administration and of the new institutions mandated by the Chittagong Hill Tracts for service delivery, land administration and the provision of the rule of law. The main operational issues are development coordination, the management of conflicts, and creating the skills and conditions for joint, collaborative development planning.

(c) Local level: to strengthen informal and traditional mechanisms for the management of conflicts and to foster better intercommunity relations in order to build bridges across ethnically divided communities.

11. It is hoped that the project, which is due to be launched in the first half of 2007, will encourage key national actors to recognize the significance of implementing the peace accord and creating conditions for sustainable peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

III. Division for Sustainable Development

12. Broad public participation in implementation is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Indigenous people are one of the nine major groups recognized by Agenda 21 as essential partners in the advancement of sustainable development.

13. Since the creation of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1992, the major groups have been given an important role to play as partners in sustainable development. Commission meetings have provided an innovative forum for the participation of non-governmental actors with the overall purpose of informing the Commission in its decision-making processes.

14. Following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, a number of partnerships for sustainable development were created to work with and/or for indigenous communities at the local, regional and global levels to address issues related to water, agricultural heritage, land, and biotrade development.

15. In preparation for the fifteenth session of the Commission (30 April-11 May 2007) and its Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (26 February-2 March 2007), which will build on the previous session of the Commission and focus on policy options and possible actions to expedite the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in relation to energy for sustainable

development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change, indigenous peoples' organizations have been invited to contribute as follows:

- To submit input to the reports of the Secretary-General
- To provide examples of case studies to be included in the Commission matrix and the sustainable development case studies database
- To prepare a paper on priorities for action by coordinating with a steering group of indigenous organizations led by Tebtebba — Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education, and the Indigenous Environmental Network (see also www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/mg_op); and to present the written input of the main indigenous groups to the Commission. The paper will outline policy recommendations by the groups related to the thematic cluster (available in all United Nations official languages at: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_csd15.htm)
- To participate in the activities of the fifteenth session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, including:

  Two dedicated multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions

  A ministerial dialogue session with major groups

  Thematic and regional discussions, including those on small island developing States ("SIDS Day"), the Partnerships Fair and the Learning Centre

  Closing remarks at the end of each meeting.

16. The Chair's summary of the fourteenth session of the Commission[2] includes seven references to indigenous people (paras. 27, 224, 225, 230, 231, 236 and 238).

17. The Division for Sustainable Development makes limited funding available to indigenous people and other participants of major groups to enable their participation in Commission meetings. Two representatives nominated by the indigenous people's sector were funded to participate in the fourteenth session, and three more are being funded to participate in the fifteenth session and the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting in 2007.

18. In addition, the Division recently launched new web pages dedicated to each major group. The web page for indigenous people can be found at: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/about_mgroups/amg_indigenous_main.htm.

Commission partnerships working with and/or for indigenous communities

19. The following is a summary of all registered partnerships that have specifically indicated a relationship or activities with or for indigenous communities.

Recovery of the circuit of Four Lakes

20. Arising from a pressing environmental need, this partnership was founded by the indigenous non-governmental organization Yachay Wasi (based in New York City and in Cuzco, Peru) to assess and stop the growing chemical contamination of

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 9* (E/2006/29).

four Andean mountain lakes, one of them affecting the village of Acopia in Peru, which is the birthplace of Luis Delgado Hurtado, co-founder and president of Yachay Wasi, who now resides in Cuzco.

- The inhabitants of these indigenous villages and many other smaller indigenous communities rely on the waters of those lakes. The contamination of the lakes has been a growing problem over the past few years.
- The project is being implemented in a rural area of the Peruvian Andes by Yachay Wasi. It is in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, allowing contact on an international level.
- The non-governmental organization attracted the interest of a major partner: Rotary International in Australia. The project leader, also the president of the organization, resides in Cuzco and speaks Quechua, being himself of Inca heritage; indeed he is a native of one of the affected villages, in which he keeps a family home. Over the past 10 years, he has demonstrated his concern for his people by carrying out the smaller projects of the organization in his village and representing his people at United Nations meetings. He has been able, after consultations, to obtain prior and informed consent from project beneficiaries, who are also indigenous and include local authorities. The project will be implemented mostly by local indigenous workers. Projects of this type could be duplicated in other areas of the world where indigenous peoples reside.

Further information is available at http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1305.html and www.yachaywasi-ngo.org/lakesproject.htm.

Globally important ingenious agricultural heritage systems

21. The overall goal of the project is to identify and safeguard globally important ingenious agricultural heritage systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems through catalysing and establishing a long-term programme to support such systems and enhance global, national and local benefits derived from their dynamic conservation, sustainable management and enhanced viability.

- Attention to local knowledge systems is opportune in view of the increasing recognition of the role of indigenous peoples and of the effective involvement of local and indigenous communities in decision-making processes, in accordance with article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Both natural heritage and cultural heritage have been the subject of much attention in recent decades through the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme and its designation of, and support to, biosphere reserves and the designation of outstanding sites and protected areas under the World Heritage Convention. However, this initiative aims to increase recognition of the combined cultural and natural agricultural heritage that has been maintained in outstanding agricultural systems, including the landscape, in situ conservation of species, knowledge and management systems and the often unique and renowned produce of such systems.

For more information, see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1153.html and www.fao.org/ag/agl/agll/giahs.

Land Alliances for National Development

22. Land Alliances for National Development (LAND partnerships) constitute a global initiative to alleviate rural poverty by strengthening country-level collaboration among State, civil society, bilateral and international stakeholders. Collaboration is needed to (a) achieve participatory dialogue; (b) improve policy formulation; (c) establish joint action to secure resource tenure for households with user rights; and (d) increase access to land by the landless and near-landless.

23. The International Land Coalition (Italy) serves as the coordination mechanism of the partnership, and works to:

- Strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations to be effective partners inside a LAND partnership
- Support the logistic requirements for community participation in dialogue and in land policy formulation
- Ensure that LAND partnerships benefit from and take into consideration lessons learned and the implications of changes for traditional organizations, pastoralists/herders, women and special populations, including indigenous peoples
- Support government land institutions in partnership with target communities
- Increase secure access to land by the landless and near-landless, including women, indigenous peoples and marginalized groups.

24. The number of members of the Coalition has grown to include a much wider set of civil society partners, including organizations of farmers, women, landless peoples, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations and other community-based organizations in over 35 countries.

25. One example of programme activity directly involving an indigenous community is the initiative to promote natural resources management by indigenous communities in the Ngovayang Forest in Cameroon. Further information is available at http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/36.html.

Great Apes Survival Project

26. The main objective of the project is to avert the threat of imminent or medium-term extinction faced by the four main kinds of great apes (bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas and orang-utans). It identifies and supports income-generating initiatives for the benefit of communities living in and around great ape habitats and protected areas, with due consideration for indigenous communities, and works to ensure, where it becomes imperative to resettle indigenous people in conformity with United Nations guidelines, that compensation is paid with international support. Further information is available at http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/43.html and www.unep.org/grasp/.

Andean Biotrade programme

27. The general objectives of the Andean Biotrade programme are:

- To promote trade and investment in biological resources in the Andean region with the aim of supporting the objectives of the Andean Biodiversity Strategy and contribute to sustainable development in the region
- To support the development of biotrade in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) through regional actions that complement the national Biotrade programmes.

28. The programme will therefore assist in the implementation of the Andean Biodiversity Strategy, and the sustainable use of biodiversity will become a development priority for the Andean Governments, the private sector, local and indigenous communities and other relevant stakeholders.

29. The partnership contributes to poverty alleviation, fosters local and national development, and ensures mechanisms of benefit-sharing by generating tangible economic, social and environmental benefits for people living in biodiversity-rich areas. It also strengthens the role of local actors such as non-governmental organizations, local and indigenous communities, academia, and the private sector. Further information is available from http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/251.html, www.biotrade.org, www.caf.com and www.comunidadandina.org.

New Ventures Biodiversity Investor Forum for the Andean and Amazonian region

30. The Andean Development Corporation, the World Resources Institute and the Biotrade initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development have entered into a partnership to support existing and start-up small- and medium-sized biobusinesses from the Andean and Amazonian regions, by granting them access to credit and venture capital. The partnership has the objective of heightening the priority of biobusiness development in the agendas of government, the private sector, local and indigenous communities, donors and other relevant stakeholders. Further information is available at http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/83.html, www.biotrade.org, www.new-ventures.org and www.caf.com.

IV. Statistics Division

Data collection

31. The Statistics Division collects data on national ethnic groups, languages and religions through a regular demographic and social statistics collection system. The main sources of data are national population censuses. As countries conduct population censuses throughout the 2010 census decade (2005-2014), the Division will collect more data on national ethnic groups, languages and religions.

Data dissemination

32. The Division maintains a website (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/default.htm) dedicated to ethnocultural characteristics. It provides a link to the website of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as to reports and data relevant to indigenous people.

33. Data on national ethnic groups, languages and religions of individual countries are disseminated through a dedicated website (http://unstats.un.org /unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/popchar2.htm) and will be updated regularly to incorporate new data received from countries.

Revision of principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses

34. Guidelines for data collection on indigenous peoples have been drafted as part of the second revision of the principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses. The draft recommendations will be presented to the Statistical Commission for approval at its thirty-eighth session (27 February-1 March 2007). The final adopted principles and recommendations will be disseminated worldwide. A draft of the revised version can be viewed at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/ demographic/sources/census/default.aspx.

Technical report

35. A technical report on national ethnic groups, languages and religions, containing an analysis of trends in data collection and dissemination as well as country practices covering the years from 1946 to 2004, with a focus on the 2000 census round (1995-2004), has been prepared and is posted on the website of the Division (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/Ethnicitypaper.pdf). The report includes a special section on enumeration of indigenous peoples.

United Nations E/C.19/2007/3/Add.7

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2007

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Sixth session
New York, 14-25 May 2007
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

United Nations Development Fund for Women

Summary

Since 1994, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has been developing projects and programmes that respond to the need to make indigenous issues a priority in its agenda. Integrating indigenous women's rights is fundamental to UNIFEM, as it seeks to more fully develop and expand its existing projects while eliciting the cooperation and support of other United Nations agencies.

The UNIFEM programme focuses on advocacy for indigenous women's rights and the elimination of discrimination. UNIFEM has been working to mainstream gender and women's human rights issues into its diverse programmes, issues such as combating violence against women and including women in peace processes, while engaging indigenous groups, particularly women.

* E/C.19/2007/1.

07-25809 (E) 210307

I. Response to the recommendations addressed exclusively to the United Nations Development Fund for Women

Recommendation 47

1. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has been introducing the perspective of indigenous women into its work on violence against women by means of existing internal processes and innovative initiatives addressing the issue in indigenous communities. For example, through the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women,[1] UNIFEM is supporting a partner non-governmental organization in combating violence against women in Mayan communities in Guatemala. The initiative will document the magnitude of the problem in four Quetzaltenango localities and will raise awareness of violence against women in those communities. It aims to increase knowledge on the human rights of women in their struggle against violence and to combat the phenomenon by empowering women and strengthening the Government's response to it. Within the framework of the Trust Fund, UNIFEM supports a project in Chiapas, Mexico, to combat gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS in a multicultural context. The non-governmental organization will conduct a qualitative study to examine how young indigenous women perceive the phenomenon of violence against women and HIV/AIDS. It will also strengthen prevention strategies and initiatives and contribute to raising awareness and disseminating information about the connection between violence and HIV/AIDS.

2. The work of UNIFEM in raising awareness of violence against women in indigenous communities includes an initiative within the framework of the 16 days of activism to end violence against women, a global campaign in which UNIFEM is involving partner United Nations agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean. In partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNIFEM supported the training of 50 indigenous journalists, 52 per cent of whom were women, from community radio stations in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru on prevention of violence against women. Journalists from 17 radio stations participated in the first contest for radio programmes on the prevention of violence against Quichua and Quechua women by producing radio programmes on violence prevention in indigenous communities. The programmes were widely broadcast by local radio stations in indigenous communities.

3. UNIFEM also supported several non-governmental human rights organizations in the northern border area of Ecuador and in Peruvian Amazonia to work with women and men in indigenous communities to recognize violence against women as a problem and explore mechanisms to effectively address it. As a result, indigenous communities in both Ecuador and Peru have increased their awareness and have the capacity to address violence against women through both traditional and western justice systems. Non-governmental organizations are now better informed and trained to work on the issue. Owing to the innovative character of the initiative, UNIFEM decided to generate and disseminate knowledge on the work in partnership with non-governmental organizations on violence in indigenous communities and capacity-building in Ecuador and Peru.

[1] Established by General Assembly resolution 50/166 and managed by UNIFEM.

4. In order to promote knowledge sharing on violence against indigenous women, UNIFEM supported the translation and publication of a report by the International Indigenous Women's Forum entitled "Mairin Iwanka Raya: indigenous women stand against violence". The report, which serves as a companion to the study by the Secretary-General on violence against women, will be made widely available in the region, especially to indigenous women in Latin America.

5. The commitment of UNIFEM to combating violence against indigenous women includes collaboration with the non-governmental organization Red Ada in Bolivia in developing an advocacy strategy to ensure that laws and policies address the issue of feminicide. The strategy includes an in-depth study on the phenomenon in rural areas, a proposal to include it in the penal code, and workshops with members of the justice sector. The strategy is still under way and has to date contributed to raising awareness of the issue of decision makers and the general public through the collection and dissemination of information.

6. Initiatives to strengthen indigenous women's rights to combat violence include a project in the region of Sucumbíos in Ecuador, where UNIFEM and the United Nations Population Fund supported the Asociación de Mujeres de la Nacionalidad Kichwa in a project to sensitize and develop capacities on gender-based violence as one of the problems limiting women's participation and exercise of their rights at the community level. The project was implemented in Lago Agrio, Cascales and Putumayo, and used a strategy based on capacity-building workshops, awareness-raising and lobbying authorities of the Federación de Organizaciones Kichwa. Similarly, in Bolivia, the organization Gregoria Apaza, with the support of UNIFEM, is implementing a project in El Alto that aims to contribute to the attainment of the individual and collective rights of young indigenous women, as well as to orientate and train them on HIV/AIDS prevention and the reduction of gender-based violence.

II. Other significant information regarding recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues

7. As part of its endeavour to strengthen indigenous women's organizations, in the Andean region UNIFEM supported a project carried out by the Enlace Continental de Mujeres Indígenas, a network of indigenous women's organizations. It included consultations in the five Andean countries with organizations of indigenous women to identify their priorities in the political sphere. The project culminated in a seminar held in Lima, which resulted in an agenda that prioritizes strengthening the political participation of indigenous women. The agenda was submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Andean Community.

8. In Mexico, UNIFEM has provided training and technical assistance to indigenous women's networks to advocate poverty reduction policies that take into account their perspective and demands. As a result of this support, a follow-up committee was established, with 40 representatives of indigenous women's networks, to prepare future meetings and develop an action plan. As part of that effort, UNIFEM supported the third meeting of indigenous women in Mexico City in August 2006, at which indigenous women developed a long-term action plan, and the principles of the work of the United Nations system with indigenous women

were ratified. The main result of the third meeting was a long-term plan for indigenous women and the Millennium Development Goals.

9. UNIFEM has been working with indigenous women to help introduce a gender and multi-ethnic perspective to public policies and poverty reduction plans. In Bolivia, Brazil, Guatemala and Paraguay, UNIFEM is implementing a programme that aims at including gender equality, with a racial and ethnic perspective, in policies in order to reduce the inequality that persists in Latin America. A main component of the programme is the systematization of information and the development of knowledge on the issue. Studies have been concluded on poverty, race, ethnicity and gender in the region, as has an analysis of poverty reduction programmes in the four countries involved. As part of those efforts and with the aim of strengthening the representation of indigenous women's networks at the decision-making level, the UNIFEM office for Brazil and the Southern Cone supported the meeting of the regional networks of black and indigenous women in preparing the Regional Conference of the Americas on the progress made and challenges remaining with regard to the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, held in Brasilia from 26 to 28 July 2006.

10. The work of UNIFEM in the area of governance and peace and security includes several initiatives in partnership with indigenous women. For example, UNIFEM is supporting the post-conflict reconstruction process in Guatemala in the framework of the "Women, peace and security" project, whereby it is helping the Congreso Nacional de Mujeres Indígenas to develop a common agenda for indigenous women's organizations and to highlight the importance of including the rights of indigenous women in the peace process.

11. UNIFEM aims at involving indigenous women in decision-making processes, including participation in politics, a key factor in transforming their demands into governmental policies; therefore, it supports strengthening the capacity of indigenous women to advocate and participate in key areas. For example, in Bolivia, UNIFEM supports indigenous women's advocacy in the process of the consolidation of the Constitutional Assembly, by supporting indigenous women at the national level in presenting their demands and focusing on poverty issues, in order to include those demands in the new political constitution of the State. In addition, a UNIFEM lead project, financed by the United Nations Development Programme and the Canadian International Development Agency, that includes working with indigenous and mestizo women, will help to mainstream gender into the Constitutional Assembly through, inter alia, monitoring, advocacy, dissemination of information and capacity-building by exchanging best practices with Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

12. In Ecuador, UNIFEM has been working to strengthen the capacity of local women leaders to participate in political processes. As a result, in the Province of Tungurahua, a participatory project which included consultations and training of women leaders, including those from rural indigenous communities from the nine municipalities, led, inter alia, to the election, for the first time, of two women leaders — one indigenous and one mestizo — to the local government committee.

13. UNIFEM is involved in several inter-agency initiatives on indigenous issues; among others, it is part of the inter-agency group on indigenous issues in Mexico. In Ecuador, as a result of the participation of UNIFEM in the Thematic Group on

Indigenous Issues, the gender perspective was included in the discussion of its programming and activities with the indigenous and Afro-descendants communities.

14. In partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme, UNIFEM supported a two-part workshop for approximately 30 indigenous women from Mexico and Central America, held in July and November 2006. The workshop strengthened the capacity of indigenous women to address environmental issues and to develop skills in community radio broadcasting. The broadcast material will be disseminated in the languages of the indigenous communities involved. As a result of the workshop, a workplan was developed to link the work in community radios with the work of indigenous and non-indigenous women at the national level.

15. Regarding the access of indigenous women to information, the third Know-How Conference entitled "Weaving the information society: a gender and multicultural perspective", was held in Mexico City at the recommendation of the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women's Movement in August 2006, with 350 participants from all over the world, including the network of Mexican documentation centres, invited by UNIFEM. The main objectives of the Conference were to promote women's libraries and networks and to develop specific policies for indigenous and rural access to information.

United Nations E/C.19/2007/3/Add.8

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2007

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Sixth session
New York, 14-25 May 2007
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Summary

In the present document, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity provides information on the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its third, fourth and fifth sessions addressed to the Convention secretariat, as well as follow-up concerning the recommendations of the Forum at its second session.

* E/C.19/2007/1.

07-25815 (E) 260307

I. Response to recommendations addressed exclusively to the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Recommendation regarding the establishment of an international code of ethics[1]

1. At its second session, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recommended, inter alia,

> the establishment of an international ethical code on bio-prospecting in order to avoid bio-piracy and ensure the respect for indigenous cultural and intellectual heritage. Under the framework of the Convention, a mechanism should be established for the repatriation and devolution of genetic materials collections to indigenous peoples. The Forum recommended to the Convention secretariat that the global taxonomy initiative incorporate an ethical principles and social framework for the protection of indigenous peoples' rights to their lands, traditional knowledge and resources before its implementation.

2. Following up on that recommendation, at its seventh meeting the Conference of the Parties requested the ad hoc open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions to develop elements of a code of ethical conduct to ensure respect for the cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account task 16 of the programme of work on article 8 (j) and related provisions.[2] Accordingly, the issue was included as item 9 of the agenda of the fourth meeting of the Working Group.

3. It should also be noted that, in task 16 of the programme of work on the implementation of article 8 (j) and related provisions,[3] the Executive Secretary was requested to identify, compile and analyse, with the participation of indigenous and local communities, existing and customary codes of ethical conduct to guide the development of models for codes of ethical conduct for research, access to, use, exchange and management of information concerning traditional knowledge, innovations and practices for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Thus, following up on the request of the Permanent Forum will also address task 16 of the programme of work.

4. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties took note of the elements of a code of ethical conduct and invited parties, Governments, indigenous and local communities, relevant international organizations and other relevant stakeholders, after having undertaken, where appropriate, consultations, to submit written comments to the Executive Secretary on the draft elements at least six months prior to the fifth meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions, and requested the Executive Secretary to transmit the decision to the Permanent Forum and to seek collaboration in the development of the code.

5. The Executive Secretary is currently compiling the views and comments provided, including those of the members of the Permanent Forum. The compilation and a revised draft on elements of a code of ethical conduct will be available at least

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[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 23* (E/2003/43), para. 57.

[2] See www.biodiv.org/decisions, decision VII/16, annex, I, para. 5.

[3] Ibid., decision V/16, annex.

three months prior to the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8 (j) for its consideration. The Working Group has been requested to further develop the draft elements of a code of ethical conduct and submit them to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting for consideration and possible adoption.

Recommendation regarding indigenous women, gender issues and biodiversity[4]

6. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has been actively engaged in the Task Force on Indigenous Women of the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality since its inception in 2004.

7. In its preamble, the Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and affirms the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for biological diversity conservation.

8. A specific framework for the participation of indigenous women can be found in the programme of work for the implementation of article 8 (j) and related provisions regarding participatory mechanisms for indigenous and local communities.[3] Task 4 of the first phase of the programme of work calls on parties to develop, as appropriate, mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities with specific provisions for the full, active and effective participation of women in all elements of the programme of work, taking into account the need:

(a) To build on the basis of their knowledge;

(b) To strengthen their access to biological diversity;

(c) To strengthen their capacity on matters pertaining to the conservation, maintenance and protection of biological diversity;

(d) To promote the exchange of experiences and knowledge;

(e) To promote culturally appropriate and gender-specific ways.

9. In order to ensure the full involvement and participation of indigenous women in the work conducted under the Convention on Biological Diversity with regard to traditional knowledge, the secretariat takes into account gender considerations when selecting participants for its meetings, in research work, when creating expert groups and in general in all activities related to policy creation and implementation of provisions of the Convention. As an example, the article 8 (j) advisory group is composed of 17 members, 9 of whom are indigenous women. Given that traditional knowledge is a cross-cutting issue within the Convention, the promotion of the participation of indigenous women is applicable to meetings regarding each work programme and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

10. Finally, the secretariat of the Convention continues to cooperate with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum and with other relevant organizations, as well as with women representatives of indigenous and local communities to ensure that the perspectives and strategies of indigenous women in biodiversity-related issues are

[4] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 23* (E/2004/43), para. 75.

taken into account in the work conducted within the framework of the Convention with regard to traditional knowledge.

Recommendation regarding sui generis systems for the protection of traditional knowledge and the development of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources[5]

11. The development of sui generis systems for the protection of traditional knowledge was considered at the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8 (j) and at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties has requested the Executive Secretary to continue gathering and analysing information in consultation with parties, Governments and indigenous and local communities, and to develop further, as a priority issue, elements for consideration at the fifth meeting of the Working Group so that it can identify priority elements and make recommendations regarding their adoption at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

12. At its eighth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a timetable for the development of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing with the aim of adopting a regime no later than 2010, and it has also made significant decisions to enhance the participation of indigenous and local communities in issues related to traditional knowledge and associated genetic resources.

Recommendation regarding the convening by the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues of a technical workshop on indigenous traditional knowledge to promote a complementary and holistic approach to traditional knowledge[6]

13. The secretariat of the Convention assisted in the facilitation of a technical workshop on indigenous traditional knowledge, held in Panama in September 2005. The workshop promoted a collaborative, complementary and holistic approach to traditional knowledge in order to ensure a better understanding of indigenous concerns and their possible solution. The workshop was attended by 28 experts from indigenous organizations and by representatives of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations.

14. In its conclusions and recommendations, the workshop identified indigenous perspectives and experiences with indigenous traditional knowledge issues, gained a better understanding of the various programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations relating to indigenous traditional knowledge, and formulated certain recommendations for the consideration of the Forum. Recognizing the multiplicity of policy areas in which indigenous traditional knowledge issues arise, and the range of priorities, objectives and strategies relating to indigenous traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, workshop participants identified a number of recommendations to be addressed to the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, Governments, indigenous peoples and academia, as well as some recommendations to be addressed to the Forum itself.

[5] Ibid., para. 77.

[6] Ibid., *2005, Supplement No. 23* (E/2005/43), para. 140.

Recommendation regarding the international expert group meeting on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing and indigenous peoples' human rights under the Convention on Biological Diversity[7]

15. In cooperation with the secretariat of the Convention, the secretariat of the Permanent Forum facilitated an international expert group meeting on the Convention on Biological Diversity international regime on access and benefit-sharing and indigenous peoples' human rights, held from 17 to 19 January 2007 in New York. The report of the meeting, including draft recommendations and conclusions, will be considered at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum and at the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8 (j) and the Working Group on access and benefit-sharing in October 2007.

Recommendation regarding support for the international expert seminar of indicators[8]

16. The Permanent Forum welcomed the holding of an international expert seminar on indicators relevant to indigenous peoples and biodiversity, to be organized by the working group on indicators of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity under the auspices of the Convention and the Permanent Forum. To that end, and through the generosity of the Government of Spain, the secretariat of the Convention developed memorandums of understanding with the Latin American and Caribbean regional office of the World Conservation Union and the Tebtebba Foundation to facilitate the Latin American and Caribbean regional consultation, which was held in December 2006 in Quito, and the international expert meeting on indicators, which was held in the Philippines from 5 to 9 March 2007. The reports of those meetings will be considered at the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8 (j) and at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and will inform the adoption of indicators relevant to indigenous and local communities within the context of the Convention and the 2010 biodiversity target.

II. Response to recommendations addressed to the United Nations system

General recommendation regarding effective participation of indigenous peoples

17. The Conference of the Parties has not responded to the general recommendations made by the Permanent Forum to the United Nations system. However, noting that regular recommendations have been made by the Forum concerning the effective participation of indigenous peoples in matters that affect them, the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting adopted enhanced participation mechanisms and measures to assist the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the development of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

18. As an indication of the importance placed on the implementation of article 8 (j) and the effective participation of indigenous and local communities, it

[7] Ibid., *2006, Supplement No. 23* (E/2006/43), chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I.

[8] Ibid., para. 22.

should be noted that the Convention is the only multilateral environmental agreement with two full-time positions in its secretariat exclusively focused on traditional knowledge and its role in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

19. At its eighth meeting, held in Curitiba, Brazil, in March 2007, the Conference of the Parties became the first governing body of a multilateral environmental agreement to establish a voluntary funding mechanism specifically for the participation of indigenous and local communities in meetings held under the Convention. In recognition of the diversity of indigenous and local communities, the Conference of the Parties also established separate categories of accreditation for indigenous communities and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles.

20. The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties attracted a large number of participants from indigenous and local communities, as well as more than 1,000 non-governmental organizations, including 348 indigenous organizations. After the Permanent Forum, the secretariat of the Convention hosts one of the largest gatherings of indigenous and local communities in the international system, which is further testimony to the high priority given by indigenous and local communities to participation in the work of the Convention.

III. Obstacles to the implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

21. Within the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the implementation of the programme of work for article 8 (j) and related provisions is the highest priority for indigenous and local communities. In assessing obstacles to implementation, it is important to note that the secretariat of the Convention is not an implementing body; implementation in fact rests with the parties to the Convention. It is therefore useful to consider a brief analysis of the third national reports of the parties to the Convention concerning implementation of the Convention. In the reports, the parties described the level of priority that they give to each article of the Convention. For each article, the parties prescribed the programme of work with a low, medium or high priority. Considering only 30 reports at the time of the initial analysis, with regard to article 8 (j), 9 parties considered article 8 (j) a high priority, 10 considered it to be a medium priority and 8 considered it a low priority. Only one other provision, article 16 (access to and transfer of technology), had fewer parties describing the programme of work as a high priority. Furthermore, article 8 (j) has the highest number of low priority ratings. All countries that described article 8 (j) as a high priority have acknowledged indigenous or local communities, except Germany, whose international cooperation efforts, however, significantly involve work with indigenous and local communities. Of the countries that rated article 8 (j) a low priority, none had recognized indigenous and local communities, except Morocco. Finally, the parties that rated article 8 (j) a medium priority all acknowledged having indigenous and local communities (see table).

Level of priority given to article 8 (j) by reporting Member States

High priority	*Medium priority*	*Low priority*
Bangladesh	Algeria	Belgium
China	Botswana	Cyprus
Turkmenistan	Congo	Israel
Finland	Estonia	Iceland
Germany	Hungary	Italy
Mauritania	Namibia	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Niue	Norway	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Senegal	Poland	Morocco
Thailand	Republic of Korea	
	Sweden	

22. Although it is difficult to establish trends or to make comparisons with the second national reports because of changes in reporting structure and different numbers and combinations of the Member States reporting, the priority given to implementing article 8 (j) appears to have decreased. In the second national reports, 44 per cent of the 92 parties that responded to the question on priority of work rated article 8 (j) high priority, compared to only 30 per cent of the 30 parties that gave it a high priority in the third national reports.

23. There are numerous challenges facing countries in the implementation of article 8 (j), ranging from financial, capacity, social, political and demographic obstacles to public awareness issues. The parties reported that the 10 most significant obstacles to the implementation of article 8 (j) were, in order of perceived level of difficulty:

- Lack of financial, human and technical resources
- Lack of economic incentives
- Lack of public education and awareness at all levels
- Underused scientific and traditional knowledge
- Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all objectives
- Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders
- Lack of capacity in local communities
- Lack of synergies at the national and international levels

- Lack of appropriate policies and laws
- Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weaknesses

Poverty was also considered a high challenge, particularly in African countries.

IV. Other significant information on recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues

24. The secretariat regularly liaises with donors to support the implementation of the work programme for article 8 (j), as decided by the Conference of the Parties at its biennial meetings. In particular, the voluntary fund for the participation of indigenous and local communities in meetings held under the Convention is now fully operational. Information about the fund, including application forms, is available at www.biodiv.org/programmes/socio-eco/traditional/default.shtml.

V. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the sixth session, "Territories, lands and natural resources"

25. The most relevant output to date regarding article 8 (j) and the Convention on Biological Diversity with regard to the special theme of the sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is the adoption of the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines.

26. The Conference of the Parties has been actively considering the question of the preservation of sacred sites and lands and waters occupied by indigenous and local communities. In February 2004, the parties adopted the guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed for, or which are likely to have an impact on, sacred sites or lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities.

27. The guidelines provide guidance to Governments on the incorporation of cultural, environmental and social considerations of indigenous and local communities into new or existing impact-assessment procedures. The Conference of the Parties requested governments to use the guidelines whenever developments were proposed for, or were likely to have an impact on, sacred sites or lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities. The guidelines are available in the six United Nations languages at www.biodiv.org/doc/guidelines.shtml.

VI. Information regarding the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

28. All activities within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity relating to indigenous and local communities directly contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In particular, article 8 (j) and related provisions directly address

matters of the utmost importance to indigenous and local communities by focusing on the respect, preservation and maintenance of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. Article 8 (j) also requires that such knowledge, innovations and practices be promoted with the approval and involvement of the knowledge-holders and encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use.

29. The parties to the Convention have taken steps to comply with those commitments. The Conference of the Parties established the ad hoc open-ended intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions to address them and to develop an ambitious programme of work, which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties in 2000 and provides the basis for action on traditional knowledge within the framework of the Convention.

30. In particular, in accordance with goal 1 of the Decade, by its decision VIII/5/E, the Conference of the Parties urged the parties to the Convention to develop, adopt and/or recognize regional, national and local sui generis systems for the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, based on the customary laws of indigenous and local communities with their full and effective participation, and has requested the further development, as a priority issue, of possible elements of sui generis systems for consideration at the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8 (j) and at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

31. In addition, traditional knowledge is an important component of the thematic programmes of work on agricultural biodiversity, forest biological diversity, marine and coastal ecosystems, inland waters, and dry and sub-humid lands established by the Conference of the Parties.

32. In conclusion, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has considerably advanced its preliminary work for the promotion and protection of traditional knowledge. In distilling its work into outcomes, the Convention has entered a period of enhanced implementation and actively seeks and encourages the involvement of indigenous and local communities in the development and implementation of the work programme of article 8 (j) and related provisions, thereby directly contributing to the goals of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

VII. Input to a questionnaire to enhance reporting to the Permanent Forum

33. The secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity respectfully suggests that questionnaires be brief and to the point and allow for reporting on recommendations that are made within the mandate of the body concerned.

United Nations E/C.19/2007/3/Add.9

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
5 March 2007
English
Original: Spanish

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Sixth session
New York, 14-25 May 2007
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations**

United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Summary

This report provides background information on issues concerning indigenous women's participation in governance processes and in local governments, including basic information with respect to: (a) the definition of "indigenous" and its application in the five Latin American countries covered by the study; (b) the relationship between indigenous peoples and poverty; and (c) the relationship between indigenous peoples, local governments and governance, highlighting the tensions that can arise between different concepts and practices.

With regard to political participation, the report presents an analysis of mechanisms such as quota laws and systems, their scope and problems in implementing them from the national to the local level. The analysis shows that while these mechanisms are essential, they do not redress indigenous women's low levels of representation or guarantee the exercise of their democratic rights. Rather, the scarcity and dispersion of information and analyses on this subject confirm that indigenous women are largely invisible in this sphere. In the same context, the report presents some of the ways in which indigenous peoples have reconceptualized local government and governance in the framework of their practices and customs, their traditions and the political positions of social movements and organizations.

* E/C.19/2007/1.

** The submission of the present document was delayed in order to ensure the inclusion of the most recent information.

07-25821 (E) 220307 260307

The report then addresses the issue of inter-agency coordination in terms of how indigenous women's organizations and their areas of concern are linked with a variety of external entities, and touches on certain standards, policies and experiences that have created an enabling environment for indigenous women's participation. For example, the report explores the connection between indigenous women's organizations and public and civil-society entities at the local and non-local levels, and presents reflections on the following basic questions: beyond possible isolated examples of formal coordination mechanisms and opportunities, do indigenous women's organizations show a capacity for engagement and initiative? Do external entities — such as the State, NGOs and women's organizations and movements — understand and support the positions of indigenous women? How? Are there any signs pointing to the construction of joint intercultural networks and a common political platform? The report briefly reviews these questions, starting with legislative initiatives that form a potentially enabling regulatory framework for indigenous women's participation, then giving some examples of the application of public policies to strategic issues and finally highlighting some of the specific experiences of development programmes and projects.

The report's conclusions are grouped into two categories: strengths and weaknesses of the processes and experiences analysed, and lessons learned. The analysis of strengths and weaknesses is presented in relation to two issues: (a) indigenous women's political and social participation at the local level, and (b) inter-agency coordination and public policies.

On the first issue, the main conclusion is that it is not clear that indigenous movements and organizations can succeed in systematically integrating women by altering power structures and promoting more broad-based social participation and decision-making, since indigenous women still suffer from sharp disparities with regard to equal opportunity.

On the second issue, the main conclusion is that there is a broad and diversified institutional environment that can represent an opportunity for increasing indigenous women's participation and providing more appropriate systemic responses to their demands in terms of public policies and investments.

The situation is similar at local levels of governance and in municipal governments. The larger number of women in traditional consultation and decision-making forums, the higher proportion of women in various local-government entities and the effective, constant and proactive participation of certain women leaders cannot be seen as systematic processes on a significant scale.

In order for this to be feasible, a number of conditions must be met: the first is that indigenous women and their organizations should increase their capacity to engage in dialogue and design their own agendas; the second is that external entities should be permeable, flexible and open enough to allow for genuinely horizontal, democratic and non-discriminatory processes of dialogue.

The lessons learned are grouped under four dimensions:

(a) **A focus on small-scale initiatives that can be broadened.** An alternative to large-scale bilateral and multilateral development projects for indigenous peoples is to focus on small-scale initiatives, based on sound selection and comparability criteria, that are interlinked and that can, at a subsequent stage, be substantially scaled up on the basis of the knowledge gained and the results actually achieved.

(b) **Facilitating and monitoring different initiatives with different women and men.** A key requirement is the capacity to recognize and bridge differences, while not homogenizing the women involved or the initiatives in which they participate.

(c) **Empowering indigenous women and girls at the grass-roots level.** Many development programmes and projects end up associating themselves repeatedly with the same leaders (male and female), since they already have experience and are undeniably easier to work with, making the investment more "profitable".

(d) **The urgency of innovation.** The proposals on gender issues being put forward at various levels tend to be repetitive, slow to adapt and based on expediency. It is necessary to innovate by moving beyond traditional awareness-raising and training activities, for example through apprenticeships, peer exchanges and internships that take individuals out of their own backyards and communities, and to avoid the assistance-based model that reproduces the parameters of "hard-core poverty".

Participation of indigenous women in governance processes and in local governments in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru[1]

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[1] Summary of the original document, which can be found at http://www.un-instraw.org/participacionpolitica. For the bibliographical references, footnotes and bibliography, see the original document.

I. Main results of the review

A. Brief description of the situation with regard to indigenous peoples

1. This section provides essential background information on the issue of indigenous women's participation in governance processes and in local governments.

1. The definition of "indigenous"

2. International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples in independent countries, adopted in Geneva in 1989 by the ILO General Conference, has been ratified by most of the Latin American countries (with the notable exceptions of Chile and Panama).[2]

3. Although Convention No. 169 establishes parameters for defining "indigenous", and its ratification by the countries covered in this study suggests that they take a uniform approach to the concept, in practice there is as yet no single standard or set of criteria for identifying, in censuses, the indigenous population of Latin America.

2. Indigenous peoples and poverty

4. Being indigenous increases a person's likelihood of being poor. The poverty eradication efforts of the past decade have tended to have little impact on the indigenous population, with the notable exception of those carried out in Guatemala, although illiteracy rates remain high in that country.

5. According to figures from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in 1995 there were 43 million completely illiterate people in Latin America who had no access to or mastery of the codes of reading or writing. Indigenous areas of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, like Guatemala, continued to exhibit high rates of female illiteracy.

6. The indigenous population and rural areas have made far less progress than urban areas in terms of education. Deficiencies have also been noted with respect to gender inequalities, although some progress has been made in raising women's and men's levels of schooling. The average school enrolment rates for indigenous children are low, but the rates for indigenous girls are lower by 50 per cent or more. The same is true with respect to adult literacy.[3]

7. The need to achieve equity in education has been identified. To this end, intercultural bilingual education has been proposed, among other measures. New programmes have been created to improve education quality by training teachers in and for indigenous areas. Countries that have implemented such initiatives include those with a high proportion of indigenous inhabitants, such as Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala and Peru. Colombia, meanwhile, has included educational components in the laws it has formulated on indigenous issues. By means of such programmes, these countries have sought to achieve equity between girls and boys and to reduce poverty among indigenous people. The challenge, however, is enormous.

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[2] See table 1 of the original document.

[3] See table 8 of the original document.

3. Indigenous peoples, local governments and governance

8. One of the principal social changes that have taken place in Latin America since the early 1980s is the emergence of indigenous movements at the local, national and international levels. Over the same period, Latin America made increasing headway with two significant political processes: democratization and decentralization. One of the indigenous movements' most important successes has been the increase in their capacity to promote and support their candidates' access to many local governments in many Latin American countries.

9. In its report "Democracy in Latin America: Towards a Citizens' Democracy", the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) indicates that the percentage of indigenous members of lower legislative chambers or single-chamber legislatures in 2001-2002 was 0.8 per cent (1 out of 120) in Peru; 3.3 per cent (4 out of 121) in Ecuador; 12.4 per cent (14 out of 113) in Guatemala; and 26.2 per cent (34 out of 130) in Bolivia. As can be seen, these percentages are far smaller than the average percentages represented by the indigenous population of these countries.[4]

10. With access to local government, indigenous communities obtain political legitimacy and power over crucial public services and resources. Governance often improves as well, since such access tends to lead to more transparent and participatory decision-making processes. These processes include innovations such as participatory strategic planning and budgeting, people's assemblies as mechanisms of social control over elected officials, and negotiation tables to settle disputes and build consensus. Democratic control of local governments has also helped to improve governance, since it increases indigenous communities' access to information and advice regarding their legal rights and the government programmes and policies from which they could benefit.

11. It is important to note that a full understanding of the issues covered in this study must take into account the tensions and contradictions between decentralization, local government, governance and civic participation as typically defined in States and in Latin America in general, on the one hand, and the indigenous view of these same concepts, on the other, which is influenced by discussions concerning indigenous peoples' rights, customs and practices, traditional structures of indigenous organization, self-determination and autonomy.

12. On 29 June 2006, the United Nations Human Rights Council, meeting in Geneva, adopted the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration stipulates that indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as collectives or as individuals, of all the human rights and fundamental freedoms recognized by the United Nations. It also acknowledges indigenous peoples' right to exercise self-determination and to preserve and strengthen their distinct political, legal, economic, social and cultural institutions, while retaining their rights to participate fully, if they so choose, in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the countries in which they live.

13. One of the more controversial issues is precisely that of the self-determination of indigenous peoples. Even today, many national Governments see this affirmation as a threat to national unity. What is certain is that for centuries, up to and including the present time, indigenous peoples' relationships with national Governments and

[4] See table 2 of the original document.

societies have been based on the exercise (veiled or explicit, depending on the circumstances) of their self-determination.

14. Indigenous governance is defined as indigenous peoples' sphere of authority, which, within the framework of applicable laws and of the States of which these peoples are part, and bearing in mind indigenous peoples' own forms of organization, enables them to control their own economic, social and cultural development; to manage their lands and territories in recognition of the special relationship between the territory and ethnic and cultural identity; and to participate effectively in local, subnational and national governments.

15. Indigenous systems are very much alive and active. The space and time in which they operate are parallel to those of the nation as a whole, and this sphere often remains untouched by the measures adopted by national Governments. Each indigenous people is in itself a complex, dynamic, living, changing society that constantly reincorporates values even as it differentiates itself and develops within a national society that surrounds it and that, in turn, is complex in itself and in its relationships with its partners and members.

B. Indigenous women's rights and participation

16. With regard to indigenous women's political participation, an analysis was conducted of mechanisms such as quota laws and systems, their scope and problems in implementing them from the national to the local level. The findings show that while these mechanisms are essential, they do not redress indigenous women's low levels of representation or guarantee the exercise of their democratic rights. Rather, the scarcity and dispersion of information and analyses on this subject confirm that indigenous women are largely invisible in this sphere.

1. Indigenous women's rights and citizenship

17. Given that women as a group and indigenous people as a group each have their own difficulties in exercising their rights, indigenous women are doubly disadvantaged. In examining the possible reasons for this situation, it is necessary to discuss the tensions between the different ways of conceiving and upholding universal human rights, on the one hand, and specific collective rights, on the other.

2. Gender and empowerment

18. It is impossible to speak of the participation of women, including indigenous women, without referring to the concept of empowerment. Without attempting to present an exhaustive analysis of the subject, it should be pointed out, along the lines suggested by Magdalena León, that "empowerment challenges the existing balance of power and seeks to gain more control over the sources of power. It fosters individual autonomy, stimulates resistance, promotes collective organization and encourages protest through mobilization".[5]

[5] León, Magdalena (ed.), *Poder y empoderamiento de las mujeres*, Tercer Mundo Editores, National University of Colombia Faculty of Human Sciences, Santa Fé de Bogotá, Colombia, first reprint, 1998.

3. Women's political participation: from the national to the local level, the near-invisibility of indigenous women

19. As a means of promoting gender equality in political participation, especially over the past decade, countries have experimented with quota laws and systems in election processes.[6]

20. In Bolivia, since 1997 political parties have been required to ensure that women make up 30 per cent of their candidates for the Chamber of Deputies and 25 per cent of their candidates for the Senate.

21. In Colombia, one such instrument is Law No. 581 of 2000, known as the Quota Act, which is intended to increase the number of women in senior positions in State entities at the national, departmental, district and municipal levels and to give them access to at least 30 per cent of government posts.

22. In Ecuador, article 102 of the 1998 Constitution provides that "the State shall promote and guarantee the equitable participation of women and men as candidates in elections for public office, in leadership and decision-making posts in the public sector, in the administration of justice, in oversight bodies and in political parties".

23. In Guatemala, the Government has reformed the Elections and Political Parties Act in compliance with its commitments under the peace agreements.

24. In Peru, Law No. 27680 reforming section IV (on decentralization), chapter XIV, of the Constitution (6 March 2002) provides that regional governments have political, economic and administrative autonomy.

25. While they serve to open up opportunities, quota laws do not, in themselves, represent a means of constructively advancing the goal of increasing the participation of marginalized groups in election processes and modifying the historical-cultural and balance-of-power dynamics that influence those processes. Although they usually yield observable quantitative results, it has been acknowledged that States and political parties must also give priority to the qualitative aspect of participation, change and women's leadership.

26. The aforementioned UNDP report indicates that, in just over a decade, the percentage of elective posts (in general and at the national level) occupied by women rose from 8 per cent to 15.5 per cent in the 18 Latin American countries studied, albeit with wide variations between countries. It is noteworthy that Bolivia, the majority of whose population is indigenous, attained the highest average participation, with a very large increase by 2002.[7]

27. The organization United Cities and Local Governments has pointed out that local levels of government offer more opportunities for women's empowerment and exert a very positive influence on their national-level participation. The countries with the most women councillors are the ones most likely to have a high percentage of women parliamentarians.

28. However, it has been posited that, with the decentralization process, more money has been channelled to municipalities, attracting the attention of political parties and leaving less room for women's political participation. This was observed

[6] See table 11 of the original document.

[7] See table 12 of the original document.

in municipal administrations in Bolivia immediately after the promulgation of the Popular Participation Act.

29. Massolo notes that "While the municipality is the level of representation and government closest to the citizenry, and deals with matters of everyday life, paradoxically it has not facilitated women's access to representative office at the municipal level [...] The local level has proved to be the least open and least favourable to women's formal participation and to the exercise of their civil rights".[8]

30. The reports considered at the 10-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action contain relevant assessments of the factors that hinder women's political participation. Peru's report, for example, notes that "Women's lack of documentation, poverty, rural isolation and illiteracy have a direct bearing on female abstention during elections", their lack of interest in leadership, and the "risk of manipulation of women in the exercise of their civil rights".

31. Bolivia's report notes that "There are ongoing problems, such as the failure to have the gender perspective embedded in government bodies or economic development plans and programmes. In rural areas, in particular, the political and civic participation of women is another area of concern", especially since so many women lack basic documentation.

32. Ecuador's report asserts that "Women who venture into politics in Ecuador face ingrained cultural prejudices in the political parties and their leaders about women entering the world of politics, historically considered a public and therefore exclusively masculine domain".

33. The reports submitted to this 10-year review reveal some of the factors which, over and over in the different countries, are cited as obstacles to the participation of indigenous women in the political system:

(a) Lack of documentation, as a key obstacle to the exercise of civil rights, including the right to participate and to be elected in a representative democracy;

(b) Little or no access to or control of various kinds of assets, including human assets (lack of education and training), physical assets (isolation in rural areas) and social assets (weak social networks and relationships), among others;

(c) Political violence, which is particularly severe in countries such as Colombia, Guatemala and Peru, where current conflicts or the aftermath of earlier ones have resulted in large numbers of undocumented, rootless displaced persons and refugees who feel threatened and afraid to act freely, with obvious adverse effects on political participation.

34. Significantly, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted in June 2006, states that indigenous peoples retain their rights to participate fully, "if they so choose", in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the countries in which they live. This points to a factor that poses a key question for any initiative intended to strengthen the participation of indigenous people (both women and men) in the dominant political systems of their countries,

[8] Massolo, Alejandra, *Participación política de las mujeres en el ámbito local*, preliminary version, United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), 2006.

which by definition are distinct from the multiple traditional political systems of indigenous peoples.

4. Indigenous women's social participation in organizations and movements: from discourse to practice

35. All of the five countries under consideration have a large number of social organizations and movements that vary in form and nature. Even in countries where, at various stages of their recent history, armed conflict has broken out and Governments have tended to be authoritarian and centralizing (such as Colombia, Guatemala and Peru), the working classes in both rural and urban areas have had these forms of social capital and social networks, some of which have become more political in nature, while others have focused more on economic and production issues.

36. A brief summary of the conclusions reached on the issues under consideration reveals a number of important observations:

(a) Greater visibility and overall recognition of women in the public sphere of social life, associated with the visibility of the social movements to which they belong;

(b) Various advances in terms of the number of women participating in local forums for consultation and deliberation, and in the intensity and continuity of this participation, in the context of the democratization of decision-making processes (development councils, negotiation tables and participatory planning forums and processes in all the countries studied);

(c) Signs that new (or relatively new) issues and narratives are being introduced into the policy agenda and into investments, such as the role of indigenous women in eco-tourism initiatives in southern Mexico, or the productive and environmental challenges of women's local economic base in Cotopaxi and Cotacachi, Ecuador;

(d) Changes in the accessibility, development and interlinkage of the various assets of concern to women; for example, a generally higher level of education with regard to human capital, especially among young women; an increase in the formation of and participation in social networks; an improvement in health; and greater sensitivity to delicate issues such as domestic violence.

37. Despite these advances, there has been no simple linear progression from the achievements of social movements in a broad institutional sphere to transformation processes geared to the substantive modification of opportunities for rural populations, especially the poorest and most marginalized from society. Two dimensions can usefully be distinguished in this context.

(a) In relation to identity and difference

(i) **The ambiguous sphere of gender demands.** The strengthening of social movements and of their identities is often linked to an ethnicity- or poverty-based view;

(ii) **Universal individual rights and localized collective rights.** Tensions may arise between citizens' specific, individual interests, which are linked to

universal human rights, and traditional, collective interests, which are linked to specific communities;

(iii) **Conservative cultural identity.** Women's active participation in social, economic and political life is not recognized; cultural outlooks are used to give women sole responsibility for certain areas, such as the conservation and management of natural resources;

(b) In relation to representation and innovation

(i) **Scale of effective participation.** It is not clear that, by altering power structures and promoting more broad-based social participation and decision-making, social movements can succeed in systematically integrating groups and stakeholders that have different types of difficulties in expressing themselves and mobilizing;

(ii) **Innovations and loss of power and control.** Innovations in production processes and in economic initiatives cannot be assumed to be neutral generators of benefits for women; what is more, they can cause women to lose power and control, not only or primarily in production processes, but also in terms of economic benefits.

C. Inter-agency coordination and public policies

1. Linkages between indigenous women's organizations and external entities

38. Beyond possible isolated examples of formal coordination mechanisms and opportunities, do indigenous women's organizations show a capacity for engagement and initiative? Do external entities — such as the State, NGOs and women's organizations and movements — understand and support the positions of indigenous women? How? Are there any signs pointing to the construction of joint intercultural networks and a common political platform?

39. An attempt was made to sketch an initial outline of this external institutional environment, using the categories described below.

(a) Municipal associations

40. There are municipal associations of various types in the five countries studied and, specifically, organizations working to increase women's political participation at the local level. These entities may be national in scope (Bolivia, Ecuador and Guatemala), or they may cover only certain regions or departments of a country (Colombia, Peru).[9]

41. These entities may support women's participation in municipal public administration (through training, technical and legal advice, exchanges of experiences, defence of their rights and opening of opportunities). However, their agendas show no clear signs of being specifically geared to indigenous women.

[9] See boxes in the original document.

(b) Women's networks and NGOs

42. There is a broad spectrum of entities in the five countries whose work relates to women and the gender dimension. However, it is possible to identify certain common areas of interest in all five countries: the origins and extent of representation and legitimacy; financial intermediation and flows of monetary resources; recognition, belonging and shared or conflicting identities; recognition of the other as a "client", "beneficiary" or interlocutor, as either a peer or an unequal partner; ways of setting and developing priorities on their agendas; and engagement with or negation of the State and public policies, among others.

(c) Public institutions

43. Executive branch agencies assigned to indigenous and gender issues not only show few signs of internal coordination; they also, in relation to the issues under consideration, have a larger difficulty: forging links with policymaking bodies responsible for decentralization and municipalization, parliamentary commissions that address these same issues, decentralized public entities, and development funds, programmes and projects. In this regard, "mainstreaming" can become a trap, since it requires interaction with a complex web of stakeholders that is very hard to navigate.

(d) Research, documentation and training centres

44. In the five countries, there is an interesting critical mass of research and training centres and programmes; documentation centres and libraries; universities with relevant programmes of study and postgraduate programmes; NGOs working in applied research; and communications entities which, in various forms and with various emphases, deal with these issues.

2. Regulatory framework, policies and programmes geared to facilitating indigenous women's participation: some examples

45. This section presents a brief overview, starting with legislative initiatives that form a potentially enabling regulatory framework, then giving some examples of the application of public policies to strategic issues and finally highlighting some specific experiences of development programmes and projects.

Elements of an enabling regulatory framework

46. Below are some elements of a legal framework that can facilitate greater consideration of the rights and participation of indigenous women. The premise is that it is necessary to develop a synergy among regulations that differ in nature, purpose and scope, thereby taking action simultaneously on various fronts. Accordingly, the study sought to identify regulations related to:

(a) Recognition and rights of indigenous peoples;

(b) Exercise of citizenship and political rights, also taking into account the context of decentralization, municipalization and local administration;

(c) Family and domestic violence;

(d) Sexual and reproductive rights;

(e) Education;

(f) Access to resources and assets essential to life (such as land), with emphasis on rural development.[10]

Selected examples of enabling policies

Education: towards multiculturalism

47. Indigenous people generally exhibit, in the five countries analysed, literacy and education shortfalls that are more serious than those afflicting non-indigenous population groups. Accordingly, it is recommended that education policies make targeted efforts towards the full inclusion of indigenous populations in primary education. Moreover, since indigenous women exhibit even worse problems of illiteracy and undereducation, it is recommended that both gender equity policies and education policies in the countries in question include targeted efforts to close these gaps.

Popular participation: a means of addressing decentralization and municipalization

48. The popular participation process that has been ongoing in Bolivia for over a decade has been studied in depth in its various facets, advances and setbacks. Massolo notes that "the central aim of the Popular Participation Act was to improve the participation of marginalized groups at the municipal level; ironically, however, this law hindered the election of women. With the redistribution of taxes and the administration of economic resources by municipalities, there was an increase in electoral competition for mayorships and municipal councillorships, which local leaders saw as real opportunities for participation. Women's chances of being elected to municipal office had been curtailed by the masculine logic of gaining political power, together with economic interests".

49. While the above observation holds true particularly in relation to the first municipal elections held after the Act's promulgation, it is somewhat reductive to equate this Act only with quotas for participation in local governments. In fact, this is a public policy whose long-term effect has been such that three subsequent administrations have been unable to repeal it, since it was gradually appropriated by local stakeholders and organizations themselves.

Equity plans: a public policy framework for women

50. In Guatemala, thanks in part to the support provided by UNDP and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to the Presidential Secretariat for Women, a National Policy for the Advancement and Development of Guatemalan Women was formulated, together with the Equal Opportunity Plan (2001-2006), which identified nine thematic areas: economic development; land and housing; education; comprehensive health care; violence against women; employment; legal equity; institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women; and socio-political participation.

51. The challenge in connection with these plans, which have also been formulated in the other countries considered in the study, lies in their implementation, which

[10] See table 17 of the original document.

requires sufficient political support, on the one hand, and copious resources, on the other; these two elements are not always available.

II. Conclusions and recommendations

A. Conclusions

1. Strengths and weaknesses

52. This section presents the study's conclusions, grouped into two categories: strengths and weaknesses of the processes and experiences analysed, and lessons learned.

Table 1
Strengths and weaknesses of indigenous women's political and social participation

Strengths	*Weaknesses*
Positioning of indigenous issues on the international and national agendas.	Near-invisibility of the specific problems of indigenous women.
Visualization of the magnitude and diversity of indigenous peoples.	Inconsistencies and contradictions in census information.
	Insufficient disaggregation of gender in available data.
New approach to indigenous peoples not only in terms of traditional issues such as poverty, unmet basic needs and other indicators of need, but also in terms of highlighting their potential and strengths.	Poverty indicators continue to penalize the indigenous population, particularly indigenous women in rural areas.
	Underuse of the municipal gender equity index and its adaptation to specifically measure the equity ratio between indigenous women and indigenous men.
Existence of indigenous policy proposals aimed at democratizing governance and local governments.	Tension between the ways in which government and governance are conceived by States and the international community, on the one hand, and by indigenous peoples, on the other.
Exposure of the overt and covert forms of racism still prevalent in national societies and States.	
Greater autonomy with respect to support institutions and mentoring programmes.	Conservative positions of traditional indigenous organizations, which have a critical influence on women's opportunities for empowerment.

Strengths	*Weaknesses*
Indigenous peoples' greater capacity to exercise citizenship and ensure that their rights are respected.	Rigid dichotomy between specific collective rights and universal individual rights tends to penalize indigenous women.
Existence of women's demands in various dimensions (political, economic, social and cultural).	Ambiguous nature of indigenous women's gender demands: between external influences and difficulties in being understood in their true magnitude.
Affirmative action mechanisms such as quota laws and systems have opened up opportunities.	Opportunity has not translated into greater participation by indigenous women. Reductive view limited to the quantitative aspects of political participation. Lack of priority for appropriate mechanisms for information dissemination and capacity-building.
Local levels of government offer greater opportunities for indigenous peoples' participation.	These opportunities do not automatically lead to active participation by women. External and internal factors can become substantive barriers to indigenous women's more active, continuous and sustainable participation: (a) Influence of political parties and traditional corporatist forms of access; (b) Political violence and social conflict at the local and national levels; (c) Weaknesses of social organizations and movements; (d) Weaknesses of multidisciplinary networks and platforms; (e) Undocumented status; (f) Illiteracy or low levels of formal education;

Strengths	*Weaknesses*
	(g) Insufficient access to information;
	(h) Isolation;
	(i) Insufficient access to and control of various assets (human, social, physical, financial and natural);
	(j) Family and domestic violence;
	(k) Practices and customs that infringe basic human rights;
	(l) Conservative cultural identity;
	(m) Authoritarian ways of exercising power.
Emergence and strengthening of many indigenous peoples' organizations at the local, national and international levels.	Assignment of women to lower-level posts related to their traditional roles.
Progressively greater participation of certain women leaders in these organizations.	Merely relative autonomy of indigenous women's organizations.
	Some dependence on external support institutions.
Indigenous women's formation of their own organizations at the local and national levels, more than the international level.	Indigenous women's difficulty in formulating their own agenda in the framework of a common agenda of indigenous demands and proposals.

53. The main conclusion is that it is not clear that indigenous movements and organizations can succeed in systematically integrating indigenous women by altering power structures and promoting more broad-based social participation and decision-making, since indigenous women still suffer from sharp disparities with regard to equal opportunity.

Table 2
Strengths and weaknesses in inter-agency coordination and public policies

Strengths	*Weaknesses*
Presence of a wide-ranging institutional environment with agendas linked to governance and local governments, and also indigenous issues.	Low levels of inter-agency coordination.
	In some cases, competition for resources.

Strengths	*Weaknesses*
Emergence of municipal associations and organizations geared to strengthening women's participation in local government. Formation of civic organizations that can promote participation by the local population.	There is no clear evidence that women's municipal associations or civic organizations have broken new ground or led to substantive, broad-based improvements in the opportunities and leadership of indigenous women mayors and councillors.
Long history and national and international recognition of NGOs and networks linked to the feminist and women's movement, international agendas and external cooperation.	Evidence that these NGOs and networks are somewhat distanced from women's and indigenous peoples' organizations, especially when the latter are of an organic nature, have a long history and belong to social movements geared to reclaiming rights.
Orientation of many of these entities towards the opening of more opportunities for women's democratic participation. Capacity to exert political pressure and influence at various levels. Availability of methods and tools for raising awareness and providing gender training, which, recently, have been enriched by instruments related to local coordination, participatory planning, participatory budgeting, etc.	Both male and female authorities tend to ask the following questions of women's organizations: (a) Whom do they represent and what gives them a legitimate right to speak and act on behalf of the working classes, indigenous women, subsistence farmers, etc.? (b) Why do they consist mainly of women, focus on women and work with women? Is this what the gender perspective means? (c) How can they relate to indigenous women if they consist of upper-middle-class white women? (d) Why not transfer resources directly from the State and international cooperation to legitimate grass-roots organizations? (e) Why do they have to provide training in how to identify the highest-priority, most strategic demands?
Emergence and development of public entities specializing in gender and ethnicity.	Low levels of coordination between specialized public agencies.

Strengths	*Weaknesses*
Formulation of certain public policies that take these dimensions into account more or less specifically.	Centralized nature of policymaking entities in the areas of gender and indigenous peoples.
	Little consistency between the positions of policymaking entities and programmes and projects dealing with the same issues/dimensions.
	Weaknesses and interruptions in institutional continuity.
	Difficulties in achieving ethnic and gender mainstreaming.
	Imposition, by assistance-oriented initiatives linked to first ladies' cabinets and offices, of a generalized concept of women and indigenous peoples as vulnerable population groups.
Interesting critical mass of research and training centres and programmes.	Substantial separation between gender studies and ethnic studies, and between those studies and decentralization studies.
	Widespread emphasis on research of an anthropological and ethnographic/ ethnological nature, with little attention to the economic and territorial dimension.
	Distance from public agencies in charge of official information sources.
	Weak channels of communication with indigenous women and populations.
Existence (variable) of a body of laws and rules, varying in nature, purpose and scope, that can lead to public policies and investments that are favourable to indigenous peoples and, in some cases, to indigenous women.	In some countries, the "political correctness" of laws and policies contrasts not only with their low levels of actual implementation, but also with the low priority attached by States to indigenous issues.
	Little progress in interlinking proactive public policies that cover different dimensions of indigenous and gender issues. Indigenous peoples and women are no longer regarded as active subjects, but as vulnerable beneficiaries.

54. There is a broad and diversified institutional environment that can represent an opportunity for increasing indigenous women's participation and providing more appropriate systemic responses to their demands in terms of public policies and investments.

55. However, in order for this to be feasible, a number of conditions must be met. The first is that indigenous women and their organizations must increase their capacity to engage in dialogue and design their own agendas. The second is that external entities must be permeable, flexible and open enough to allow for genuinely horizontal, democratic and non-discriminatory processes of dialogue.

2. Lessons learned

56. The lessons learned are grouped under four dimensions.

(a) A focus on small-scale initiatives that can be broadened

57. The political circumstances and the new social environments in the countries studied, many of which have been influenced by social and indigenous movements, mean that any initiative — large-scale, political and replicable — geared to increasing indigenous women's participation, especially at the local level, must involve active engagement with these forces and the negotiation of a shared agenda.

58. One alternative is to focus on small-scale initiatives, based on sound selection and comparability criteria, that are interlinked and that can, at a subsequent stage, be substantially scaled up on the basis of the knowledge gained and the results actually achieved. A programme's parameters will not limit its future expansion as long as there is a capacity to innovate, systematize the experience and learn from it.

(b) Facilitating and monitoring different initiatives with different women and men

59. Women can hardly be considered a homogeneous group, and this is all the more true in the case of women belonging to indigenous peoples with very different origins, territorial locations, identities and histories. Given this diverse mosaic, a key requirement is the capacity to recognize and bridge these differences, while not homogenizing the women involved or the initiatives in which they participate.

60. In this regard, experience shows that, while any programme must be flexible, it must above all define its approaches, actions and methods on the basis of close engagement with the women it is intended to serve. This should be a process of dialogue, not of responding automatically to any and every demand. What is important is the capacity for dialogue and collaboration in defining initiatives, not the imposition of ideas based on so-called higher principles.

(c) Empowering indigenous women and girls at the grass-roots level

61. Women's participation and organizational strength in communities, women's associations and other local organizations do not automatically give women access to political posts at the local government level, let alone posts in the national executive and legislative branches. This is even more true in the case of indigenous women, for whom a series of factors both internal and external to their environment and to the people to which they belong exert a powerful negative influence.

62. Few political empowerment initiatives focus on "ordinary" women: those who contend with assistance-based initiatives, whose first priority is finding ways to meet their basic needs, who are interested in economic ventures, who lack something as simple as an identity document so that they can at least be recognized as citizens. For the purpose of increasing and renewing the quality and extent of participation and leadership, and strengthening new generations that can achieve substantive change vis-à-vis their mothers' generation, it is necessary to tap the enormous potential of young indigenous women.

(d) The urgency of innovation

63. Experience has shown that the proposals on gender issues being put forward at various levels tend to be repetitive, slow to adapt and based on expediency. This can be observed among women who are feminists, researchers or politicians, on the one hand, and among working-class women (both indigenous and non-indigenous), on the other. It is not unusual to hear such women make statements along the lines of "Miss, I'll come for just one day of training; that won't be so bad".

64. There appear to be several areas in which it is urgent to innovate with respect to approaches and instruments, considering that traditional, isolated awareness-raising and training activities based on courses, workshops and quasi-academic events, and also those that use broadly defined mass education methodologies, are becoming less and less relevant. Moreover, assistance-based approaches are self-perpetuating and reproduce the parameters of "hard-core poverty". Experiences in competing for resources and co-financing initiatives of truly local interest have helped the beneficiaries to take ownership of those initiatives, to gradually make them sustainable and replicable and to achieve a sense of dignity that is lacking when beneficiaries merely receive donations. Lastly, participatory tools (municipal development plans, participatory budgets, negotiation tables, development councils, the raising of "genuine" demands, among many other instruments that have multiplied along with local governments) end up becoming the "business" of consultants and project operators if those involved lose sight of their original purpose: popular mobilization, the effective exercise of rights and citizen oversight of resources of all types.

B. Recommendations

65. **Based on the review of outcomes, the summary of strengths and weaknesses and the lessons learned, below is a limited set of recommendations intended to be practical, specific and scaled to what could become a project similar to the one being implemented by INSTRAW.**

1. Future areas of research

66. **Before the issue of possible areas of research is addressed, it is recommended that INSTRAW forge linkages with various entities that promote or directly conduct research on similar or complementary topics. Below are only a few examples, at both the national and Latin American levels:**

(a) **The programme "Decentralization and women's human rights in Latin America and the Caribbean".[11] With support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), this programme is implemented by the Gender, Society and Policy Area of the Argentine office of the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) and involves the following studies:**

(i) **Bolivia: "The tension between collective and individual rights and gender relations in a context of cultural diversity. Effects of the decentralization process" (agency: Promotores Agropecuarios (Agricultural Advocates));**

(ii) **Ecuador: "Women as social and political subjects in local governance and decentralization projects in Ecuador";**

(iii) **El Salvador: "Contributions to decentralization and democratic governance: female municipal stakeholders and local and national mechanisms for gender equity in El Salvador and Honduras" (agency: Fundación Nacional para el Desarrollo (National Development Foundation));**

(iv) **Paraguay: "Decentralization of health care in Paraguay. A contribution towards gender equality?" (agency: Centro de Documentación y Estudios (Documentation and Study Centre));**

(b) **The Women and Development Unit of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which is carrying out comparative studies in the region on ethnicity and gender;**

(c) **At the national level, entities such as the Programa de Investigación Estratégica de Bolivia (Strategic Research Programme of Bolivia), the Instituto de Estudios Ecuatorianos (Institute of Ecuadorian Studies), the Instituto de Estudios Peruanos (Institute of Peruvian Studies), the Fundación Foro Nacional por Colombia (National Forum for Colombia Foundation) and the more recent Centro de Estudios e Investigaciones para el Desarrollo y la Paz (Research and Study Centre for Development and Peace) in Guatemala, all of which have undertaken research on both subject areas in relation to poverty and decentralization;**

(d) **At the regional level, entities such as the Latin American Centre for Rural Development, which has addressed, from the perspective of applied research, some dimensions that could complement those addressed by INSTRAW, such as social movements, governance and rural territorial development, and development and poverty reduction strategies in national and regional contexts, among others;**

(e) **At the national and regional levels, opportunities for cooperation with statistical institutes in order to progress in the generation of reliable comparative information on indigenous peoples, adding specific requirements in terms of disaggregation by gender.**

67. **INSTRAW could establish a small fund for the systematization of experiences in governance and local government with a gender perspective. One experience that could be analysed and adapted in this regard is that of the**

[11] See http://www.prigepp.org/site/concurso.asp.

Chorlaví Group's Mink'a Fund, for which the Latin American Centre for Rural Development serves as technical and coordination secretariat and which receives funding from Canada's IDRC and the Netherlands' Inter-Church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO).

68. **In addition, it is recommended that INSTRAW conduct brief studies on topics such as:**

(a) **Private life and public administration: Indigenous women and men in cities and the countryside;**

(b) **Historical trends in indigenous participation in local governments. Quantitative study complemented by an analysis of enabling factors and obstacles, both internal and external, including social and institutional networks;**

(c) **Political participation and public administration with an indigenous face: effects on territorial development.**

2. **Capacity-building for indigenous women**

69. **INSTRAW could develop active coordination with national and international institutions working to provide all indigenous women with identity cards and other basic documentation.**

70. **It is recommended that INSTRAW implement innovative and validated methods of capacity-building geared to young indigenous women and men. Specific suggestions in this regard include:**

(a) **Development of channels of horizontal exchange and internships similar to those being implemented under the project on governance and sustainable living strategies in indigenous rural municipalities;**

(b) **Organization of municipal and regional knowledge fairs to spread awareness of research on the issue and to disseminate its findings, as well as systematizations of indigenous peoples' and indigenous women's own experiences;**

(c) **Organization of public political debates from the local to the national level highlighting the advances and results of the effort to increase indigenous women's participation.**

71. **In all the above-mentioned areas, efforts should be made to seek co-financing, co-sponsorship and involvement, depending on the case in question and specific opportunities, by the national public entities concerned with ethnic, gender, decentralization and sustainable development issues; decentralized entities; municipalities and local civic associations and organizations; and NGOs, networks and other interested private institutions.**

United Nations E/C.19/2007/3/Add.10

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
7 March 2007

Original: English

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
Sixth session
New York, 14-25 May 2007
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

United Nations Children's Fund

Summary

The present report contains information on the work of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in response to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. UNICEF has been making efforts to implement specific programmes aimed at indigenous children, at the country and local levels in particular, while other initiatives are being conducted at the subregional level. The work of UNICEF has focused on indigenous children while implementing holistic and comprehensive perspectives of indigenous peoples' world views. Culturally sensitive approaches have therefore been an important methodology for the Fund. The present report also contains information in relation to indigenous children, including birth registration and malnutrition. UNICEF is also very active in inter-agency coordination work to integrate and mainstream indigenous issues at the operational level of the United Nations system.

* E/C.19/2007/1.

07-26194 (E) 260307

I. Response to recommendations addressed to the United Nations Children's Fund

Country-specific analyses of the situation of indigenous children

1. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has made specific efforts over the past year to conduct participatory studies in several countries on the situation of indigenous children. The studies were aimed at gathering quantitative and qualitative data to shed light on the disparities and widespread discrimination endured by indigenous children. The data have been used by UNICEF as advocacy tools to make the situation of indigenous children visible, with a view to influencing public policies to address that discrimination. In Ecuador for example, UNICEF supports a national publication on the state of children and adolescents. Indigenous children are able to use the publication to express and raise awareness of their situation through a separate plea filed with the Ombudsman for the rights of indigenous peoples. In El Salvador, UNICEF used a rights-based approach to conduct a study on the situation of indigenous peoples, which highlighted that this group lacks representation on the country's agenda.

2. UNICEF also conducts studies at the community level. In Chile, for example, UNICEF supported an opinion study with Mapuche children and adolescents from Santiago and localities of the ninth region. The results were communicated to the media during a seminar on the protection of the rights of Mapuche children and adolescents. In the Philippines, over the past year UNICEF completed a participatory community appraisal of eight indigenous Kabihug communities in the Camarines Norte, with the extensive participation of indigenous youth as part of the research team. In accordance with the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act, and with a view to securing a second round of free, prior and informed consent of the communities prior to printing, publication of the study has been postponed. The study prompted a national rapid assessment of the situation of indigenous children and women throughout the country. Among other findings, the study found that Kabihug children are almost completely uneducated, with only 12 per cent of them enrolled in primary school. Births are almost universally unregistered, and Kabihug families are routinely forced to abandon their homes and move off the plantations on which they work. The study has played a critical role in helping UNICEF to raise awareness of the extreme disadvantage experienced by indigenous children who, for the most part, remain invisible in public policies.

3. UNICEF also supports visits of government officials to indigenous areas with a view to sensitizing them to the situation of indigenous children. In Malaysia, for example, in 2006 UNICEF supported a number of study tours with senior delegations from designated ministries to remote communities in Sabah and Sarawak. The tours fostered greater collaboration and ownership of projects with those communities.

Bilingual and intercultural education projects

4. Over the past year, UNICEF has continued to support bilingual and intercultural education. New projects were initiated in several countries, while in countries where bilingual and intercultural education were under way, efforts were made to review methodologies and strengthen their effectiveness.

5. In Belize, for example, UNICEF supported the first ever intercultural education symposium, which helped raise awareness and trigger debate regarding the challenges and disparities faced by indigenous children and adolescents. The meeting involved policymakers, government officials, educators, young people and community representatives, and focused on the promotion of cultural diversity as an essential component to building social cohesion, inclusion and fostering the principle of non-discrimination in schools and in the wider society. As a result, and thanks to the commitment of indigenous leaders, a plan of action was drafted that will lead to curriculum reform, teacher training and implementation of intercultural education in all schools. An interdisciplinary committee composed of a wide range of partners was created to provide technical direction to this initiative.

6. In some countries where intercultural and bilingual education has been supported for many years, UNICEF continues to refine tools and approaches to ensure quality education for indigenous children. In Malaysia, UNICEF supported training for teachers and school administrators on special approaches towards Orang Asli children which focuses on an inclusive learning environment, tailored grading systems and strengthened parenting skills. Remote education initiatives have been highly recognized and will be further expanded. In Guatemala, the Fund provided technical assistance for the improvement of the bilingual and intercultural education system. The model for that system was pedagogically improved by the inclusion of new components that promote active learning, the development of skills in all areas, greater cultural relevance and gender equality and equity. In Peru, UNICEF contributed to strengthening the production of culturally pertinent educational material in indigenous languages as well as the reprinting and writing of new texts, such as leisure reading and song books in indigenous languages, that were developed with the participation of teachers and children.

7. In several countries, UNICEF has concentrated on promoting indigenous cultures through education. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, efforts were focused on reviving the Wayuu language, with teachers trained to teach in their mother tongue and use educational software, while 600 Añu children participated in the revival of their language with the support of community promoters. In the same country, UNICEF supported a fluvial network of libraries with the participation of teachers, children and families. In Brazil, UNICEF mobilized children and adolescents in the Amazon region to reflect on their ethnic and cultural identity through an initiative entitled "Mapping our Culture". Yet, intercultural education benefits not only indigenous children. In Mexico, UNICEF continued to support a project to raise awareness of and combat discrimination against indigenous children through the development and integration into the school curriculum of materials that describe the situation, culture and traditions of indigenous children in Mexico.

8. At the regional level, UNICEF also supported the Latin American Congress on Intercultural and Bilingual Education that was held in Bolivia and facilitated the participation of indigenous representatives from several countries.

Culturally sensitive health care

9. UNICEF continues to promote culturally sensitive health care. In Ecuador, UNICEF entered into an agreement with other partners to ensure that indigenous mothers and children are systematically protected in their right to safe delivery and

childbirth in line with their cultural traditions. Under the agreement, and within the framework of the Minimum Agenda for Indigenous Children and Adolescents, pregnant women are free to choose the type of childbirth they wish. In Peru, the Fund supported the reinforcement of access to maternity services for mothers in rural communities by adapting the practices used at health centres to the cultural patterns of the country's indigenous peoples.

10. In the area of reproductive health, increased attention was given to addressing the spread of HIV/AIDS in indigenous communities. In Venezuela, UNICEF supported the training of health-care staff and municipal committees to promote the prevention of HIV in indigenous communities.

Indigenous women and girls

11. In line with its mission statement, UNICEF works to promote the rights of indigenous women and girls. As evidenced in its publication *State of the World's Children 2007: Executive Summary*, UNICEF believes that gender equality benefits women and children and has a tremendous positive impact on the development of society as a whole. In Guatemala, UNICEF has supported the strengthening of a municipal system of scholarship for indigenous girls from some of the poorest municipalities of the country. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNICEF strengthened and promoted a strategy for the care for women victims of violence in Zulia through the publication of awareness-raising material. In Bolivia, a gender-sensitive literacy programme for rural women's councils is being supported to help indigenous women leaders not only know how to read and write but also have more influence on municipal councils regarding legal and administrative procedures. In Colombia, in 2006, UNICEF provided technical assistance to local indigenous women's organizations in the department of Narino to include a gender focus into the strengthening of youth organizations. A total of 650 men and women were thereby engaged in a collective reflection on gender equity, which had a positive impact in reducing violence and increasing indigenous women's participation in managing local organizations.

II. Response to recommendations addressed to the United Nations system in general

12. UNICEF is working jointly with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) towards the elaboration of a study with the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous People in Ecuador, Bolivia and Peru.

13. A joint initiative is under way with the Pan-American Health Organization to organize a traditional healers workshop on HIV/AIDS in 2007.

III. Obstacles to implementation of recommendations of the Permanent Forum

14. UNICEF welcomes the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum and is committed to working towards their implementation in line with its mission

statement. Since recommendations are often numerous, it is the Fund's understanding that they will be realized in a progressive manner by building on opportunities.

15. With its medium-term strategic plan for 2006-2009, UNICEF is using the human rights-based approach to go beyond support to specific projects and adopt a comprehensive and holistic approach that focuses on tackling the root causes of discrimination against and exclusion of indigenous children through public policies. For that reason, UNICEF encourages the indigenous organizations with which it operates to work together through alliances. Such cooperation allows for a better use of resources in larger scale projects that benefit more people than a number of small projects — unless there is a specific reason to act at a small-scale level, such as fighting an epidemic threatening a small group or the disappearance of an indigenous language.

16. Another challenge in the Fund's work with indigenous peoples lies in ongoing political sensitivities around the issue, which affects advocacy efforts. In some countries, the publication of data on the situation of indigenous peoples continues to be highly sensitive.

IV. Other significant information regarding recent policies, programmes, budgetary allocations or activities regarding indigenous issues

General developments

17. As it has in the past, UNICEF has been actively participating in inter-agency efforts aimed at promoting indigenous issues. Specifically, in 2007, the Fund is acting as the co-chair of the task team established for the implementation of the decision by the United Nations Development Group to mainstream and integrate indigenous issues in the operational work of the United Nations system.

18. In line with the Permanent Forum's statements, UNICEF believes that the focus efforts aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals should be redefined, taking in consideration the perspectives, experience and world view of indigenous people. In that regard, the UNICEF Americas and Caribbean Regional Office discussed its medium-term strategic plan for 2006-2009 as the Fund's contribution to the Millennium Development Goals with indigenous leaders, who shared their views and orientation regarding the specific key result areas for indigenous children. One of the decisions adopted at the UNICEF Consultative Group of indigenous leaders was to publish those views in a document in 2007.

19. In 2007, the same regional office is planning to develop a regional communication campaign that celebrates the cultural diversity of the Americas.

V. Other areas of programmes of the United Nations Children's Fund that are relevant to indigenous peoples

Malnutrition

20. Indigenous children suffer from malnutrition and low birth weight in several countries. UNICEF is very active throughout the Latin American region in addressing malnutrition among indigenous children, especially young children. In Paraguay, a nutritional survey in two indigenous communities showed a very high prevalence of underweight and stunted growth among children under five years of age. The delivery of nutritional supplements led to a 70 per cent reduction in the underweight prevalence. In parallel, a number of actions were carried out, such as training the personnel of local health-care centres, for the detection and care of cases of malnutrition, the elaboration of a system of nutritional surveillance of children, the provision of supplements as well as nutritional education to the families. The experience conducted with the two indigenous communities led to the expansion throughout the whole country of a nutritional programme for children under five years of age and underweight pregnant women. In Panama, a nutrition study in indigenous communities has been undertaken and will be used to promote inclusive social policies.

Birth registration

21. Birth registration is a child right, the realization of which is essential to the fulfilment of other rights. However, registrars are often not easily accessible to indigenous peoples because they are located far from the community, imply a complex procedure, are not culturally sensitive and involve user fees. UNICEF has made significant efforts to promote birth registration in indigenous areas. In the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, UNICEF promoted the establishment of civil registry hospital units, leading to birth registration rates of 92 per cent in the Amazonas and 86 per cent in Zulia, two regions with a high indigenous population. In Ecuador, the campaign entitled "Together for Identity" is a registration project that enabled more than 6,000 children in the province of Morona to be given identity documents. Part of the registration strategy for remote areas of the borders involves the establishment of a registration brigade in the river health unit, which was provided with computer equipment. The brigade will be instrumental in enabling inhabitants of the riverbanks to gain access to registration services in the future. In Nicaragua, UNICEF promotes birth registration through the commitment of mayors, civil registrars and indigenous community leaders in alliance with traditional authorities, teachers, the local media and parents. An important innovation was the pre-registration carried out by community registrars, with the subsequent entry of the details at official birth registration centres.

VI. Information and suggestions regarding the special theme of the sixth session, "Territories, lands and natural resources"

22. UNICEF believes that children's rights can be best realized in an environment where children can grow and develop happily and where their families and communities have the capacity to protect their rights and provide for their needs. Land is an essential spiritual and economic element to indigenous communities, and

deprivation thereof affects the integrity of the community, which in turn has an impact on children's ability to develop harmoniously within their communities. In this context, UNICEF calls on all actors to prevent disruptions in indigenous peoples' ways of living and ensure in all circumstances a protective environment for their children.

VII. Information regarding the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

23. UNICEF is committed to achieving the objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and welcomes the Permanent Forum's useful guidance on priorities in this regard.

VIII. Inputs towards a questionnaire on programmes

24. Two countries in South-East Asia have programmes directly related to indigenous peoples, while 18 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have implemented and included in their annual reports activities directly related to indigenous peoples.

25. At the regional and subregional levels, UNICEF has conducted the following programmes:

(a) Programme for the rights of indigenous children and adolescents (17 countries);

(b) Subregional programme "Proandes" with a focus on education, health and protection (Andean countries);

(c) Subregional programme Amazonico (Amazon countries and Paraguay);

(d) Subregional programme for intercultural and bilingual education (Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru);

(e) Bilateral programme in Ecuador and Peru with indigenous groups in the border area focused on health.